




3 1761 11895362 9



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761118953629>



No. 25

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

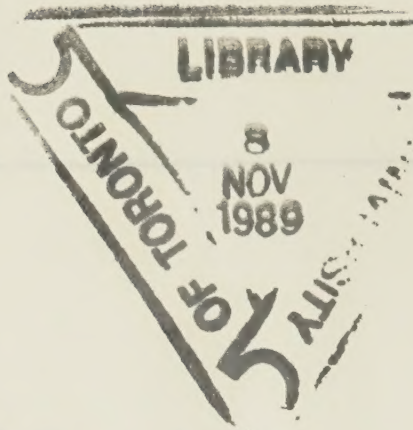
Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Third Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, June 10, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan



CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, June 10, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

PORTUGUESE NATIONAL DAY

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I rise to ask for unanimous consent in order to recognize the National Day of Portugal.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: On behalf of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), my colleagues and the government of Ontario, I rise for the purpose of recognizing an important event that dates back 407 years and has been celebrated as Portugal National Day since 1880.

I would like to recognize in the Legislature today distinguished leaders of the Portuguese-Canadian community, accompanied by Tanger Corrã, the consul general of Portugal.

The celebration of the National Day of Portugal is special and unique in the pages of history. Unlike some dates that commemorate an important political event, such as a declaration of independence, on this historic occasion we ask the people of Ontario to join our Canadians of Portuguese heritage in the remembrance of a great, world-renowned poet and writer, Luis de Camões. Although he passed away over 400 years ago, Camões left a living legacy of meaningful poetry of immortal beauty that has not withered with age.

We are, of course, all cognizant and appreciative of the tremendous contribution our Portuguese friends have made to the development and growth of our province and country, both in economic and cultural fields. Yet, as important as the economic contributions are, the attention of Canadian-Portuguese children today is focused not on the prosperity and wealth that opportunities in Canada create but on our democratic system of government that allows the people in our multicultural society to celebrate a national literary hero of their forefathers' original homeland as a right. Indeed, Luis de Camões is an intellectual giant whose footsteps have crossed centuries of time and the Atlantic Ocean to implant in Canada a great heritage of love for literature, poetry and education.

May this Portugal National Day inspire us to pause more often to study and admire our writers and poets. Perhaps we might recognize that a new Luis de Camões could be inspired as a result of paying tribute to the eternal Camões whose remembrance we are honouring today. Therefore, on behalf of the government of Ontario, I invite all members of the Legislature to observe June 10, 1987, as National Day of Portugal.

Mr. Shymko: I rise to join in the comments of the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) on this very special day, Portugal National Day, which is celebrated by the Portuguese community not only in our province but also throughout Canada. On an occasion such as this, in some ridings of our honourable colleagues, there has been a declaration of Portugal Week. I know that last week in the riding of Mississauga East, my honourable colleague attended celebrations that will continue throughout the week until the end of this week on Saturday.

I would like to point out that the contribution of Canadians of Portuguese origin is an example to be emulated by other minorities. They have successfully epitomized the best in terms of integration in our Canadian society. The success and free-enterprise spirit of the Portuguese community in business and various commercial endeavours is certainly to be emulated.

I understand that the first telephone directory of any nonofficial minority in Canada was that of the Portuguese community. The success of Terra Nova, the centre for the elderly, the home for the aged, is another example of their success here in Toronto. I understand there are now plans for a nursing home. I hope the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) will give due consideration to this endeavour.

Also, I would like to comment on the efforts made not only by colleagues of the government side but also by the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow), who was involved with myself and others in trying to assist in the establishment of a centre or chair of Portuguese studies at York University. I appeal to both the government and the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) to make sure that the funding requested will be made available so that students can enrol starting in September of this year.

We are proud of the contribution historically of the Portuguese community. They were among the first explorers who discovered Canada. There were Portuguese explorers and Portuguese fishermen. Today once again offers us an opportunity for reflection on some of the accomplishments and on some of the assistance and room for help that the Portuguese community so urgently requires.

We urge the government to co-operate jointly with the federal government in alleviating the plight of the children of illegal immigrants, many of whom are afraid to attend school because of the fear associated with their status. I know the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) will continue her endeavours to try to alleviate some of these problems for many of these children who are susceptible to a lot of social problems because of that situation. It has to be rectified quite urgently.

We certainly welcome the consul general of Portugal, who is so well aware of the accomplishments of Canadians of Portuguese origin, and thank him for the assistance he has provided to the Portuguese community in Ontario over the years. We hope that it will continue and that this relationship will be here. Not every community has enjoyed that type of assistance from its homeland, unfortunately, because of other political circumstances, but thanks to the destiny and the faith of the Portuguese community, that help and co-operation exist. It certainly is a blessing to everyone.

Once again, on behalf of Her Majesty's official opposition, I welcome all the representatives from the Portuguese community. They can count on our assistance and co-operation with the government to alleviate some of the social, economic and cultural concerns they may have.

1340

Mr. McClellan: I am very pleased to rise on behalf of the New Democratic Party to congratulate the Portuguese community of Ontario on the occasion of the celebration of its national holiday. Portuguese National Day is a celebration of Portugal and of Camões, the national poet, and also of the Portuguese community which has moved overseas and lives abroad in so many parts of the world, including here in Canada. We join with the community in expressing our best wishes and our congratulations.

Portugal has had an association with Canada for almost 500 years. For as long as there has been a fishing fleet on the Grand Banks, there have been Portuguese people in and around Canada; but it was not until 1953, surprisingly,

that the Portuguese community began to settle in Ontario in a significant way, particularly here in Toronto. The community of 1953 is referred to as the pioneers. Those were the first of many tens of thousands of people from Portugal who have settled first in Toronto and later in virtually all the cities of southern and indeed northern Ontario. The Portuguese community has made a tremendous contribution in a very short period of time to the social, economic and cultural life of Ontario.

I have the opportunity, as do both of my colleagues who spoke this afternoon, of representing a constituency that has a large Luso-Canadian community. We all three know first hand of the success and of the struggle of people of Portuguese-Canadian heritage for recognition and for social justice. A number of issues that affect the Portuguese-Canadian community come before this Legislature quite regularly. I think, for example, of the struggle for social justice of the people who work in the cleaning industry and of the struggle of construction workers and others in heavy-duty, dangerous occupations for justice from the Workers' Compensation Board. These are all issues that members of all three parties are committed to trying to resolve.

As part of the struggle for recognition, obviously, the Portuguese community will, I hope in the very near future, begin to take its rightful share in the Legislature of Ontario and in our municipal councils. I know, for example, that a number of leaders of the Portuguese community have run in provincial elections in previous years. For example, our party has nominated an outstanding candidate in the great riding of Parkdale, and I have a great deal of confidence that when the dust settles after the next provincial election, a Luso-Canadian will be able to take his or her place—we hope more than one—here in this august chamber. I suspect one of those may indeed be the new member for Parkdale.

May the Portuguese of Ontario continue to enlighten our collective hopes. As Canadians we are all proud of our multicultural heritage and of our diversities.

[Remarks in Portuguese]

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Pierce: Today I wish to address a problem that all northern Ontario residents are faced with, and that is the lack of transportation funding to maintain our present road system.

Last year the Minister of Northern Development and Mines cut \$16 million from his northern transportation budget. This year the government expects us to be grateful because the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has decided to increase the northern transportation budget by \$26 million. It is very easy to give back what one has taken from the previous year.

Northern Ontario has received approximately \$10 million in new money to maintain and improve 9,800 kilometres of roads. Highway 621 is just one example of how last year's budget cuts are adversely affecting residents of northern Ontario. This highway is the only highway for the residents and tourists to access the south end of Lake of the Woods in my riding. The only industries in this region are farming and tourism.

I, along with the township of Morson, the communities of Bergland and Sleeman and the Big Island Ojibway band have been told that due to the budgetary constraints, Highway 621 will not be repaired again this summer, or completed. Lack of funding is the reason Highway 621 cannot be completely restored this summer. Lack of funding is the reason the work is being done only on the MTC's day labour program.

Is this the Liberals' commitment to the road systems in northern Ontario and to the residents of northern Ontario?

Mr. Morin-Strom: Late last week, the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay) said the government was beginning studies on a 10-year plan to upgrade Highway 69 and Highway 11 to four lanes, connecting Toronto with Sudbury and North Bay. This is a highly desirable initiative that is attracting considerable attention in northern Ontario. However, it was interesting to find that the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) knew nothing about it in the standing committee on resources development on Monday.

The people of the north would like to know what is the commitment of this government to highways in northern Ontario. They hope it is not just to the spokes of a wheel centred on Toronto.

The recent budget committed an additional \$26 million this year for highways within the north, the equivalent of 10 miles of highway. At that rate, it will take more than 100 years to four-lane the Trans-Canada Highway through the north. Surely the Ontario government recognizes the Trans-Canada Highway is ageing and its design no longer reflects its national importance.

I urge the Premier, along with the Minister of Transportation and Communications, to make a sincere commitment to a staged upgrading of the

Trans-Canada Highway. Immediate priorities must be the twinning of the sections between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie and between Nipigon and Thunder Bay. The planning negotiations, the procrastination on these sections, have gone on for far too many years.

Transportation and tourism, indeed the whole economy of the north, require that the Trans-Canada Highway in our region become the first-class highway it should be.

RONDEAU BAY

Mr. McGuigan: According to a report released recently by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), erosion-caused water quality problems in Rondeau Bay continue to improve and fish numbers are improving.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Anything further?

Mr. McGuigan: Can I start over again?

Mr. Speaker: You have 53 seconds.

Mr. McGuigan: Thirty seconds are not of any use to me, Mr. Speaker. My time was taken by other members.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There has been a request. Is there unanimous agreement to allow the member—no, there is not; the member has up to 29 seconds.

Mr. McGuigan: Before I was interrupted, I wanted to congratulate the members of the Rondeau Bay farmers' group who have cleaned up the erosion and therefore cleaned up the habitat for fish in Rondeau Bay. Now sport anglers from all across North America are flocking back to the area, to the benefit of the tourist operators and the outfitters, and I just want to say it is a great improvement to that area.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Stevenson: There have been several attempts over the last four years to upgrade the equipment at the Aluminum Dross Recycling company near Keswick, yet the citizens in the township of Georgina are still very unhappy with the emissions from that company and with the results obtained by the Ministry of the Environment.

Control orders have been placed on the company by the ministry several times with limited results. A smoke opacity meter was required. After the first control order was placed, the meter was never plugged in. The second control order did not include directions for setting the meter and what the limit should be on

emissions. Then it was determined that the smoke opacity meter did not work in the first place. The ministry granted permission to operate the furnace without the opacity meter for two weeks after the receipt of the certificate of approval for the replacement of the dust collector system. That deadline has since expired.

There is continuing concern among the residents about phytotoxicology results on farm land nearby. In the latest frustration, the township of Georgina has authorized in resolution that David Estrin, Barristers and Solicitors, take all necessary legal action to restrain and otherwise prohibit the Aluminum Dross Recycling company from further contravening the laws of the province.

1350

PATIENTS' RIGHTS

Mr. Reville: It is gratifying that yesterday the New Democratic Party was able to convince the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) to withdraw support for his government's proposed legislation that would have denied many psychiatric patients the right to refuse medical treatment.

Members of the House might be interested to know that a significant number of amendments that I moved, which clarify and strengthen rights under the Mental Health Act, were also accepted by the committee. Among them was an amendment that rebutted the presumption that a patient under 16 is incompetent. Any members who have teen-age children would know how offensive they would find it to be assumed to be automatically incompetent under the law. Clearly, that change is an important and useful one.

Amendments also added the official guardian to the list of substitute decision-makers, so that in those cases where a person did not have a family, he would not automatically be taken to a review board without representation.

In the end, I think because of the work of the New Democratic Party and a broad coalition of people who care about rights in mental health, we will now approach having the very best mental health legislation in the western world. If we could get community mental health programs to go along with it, we would be fine, indeed.

BRAMPTON BOARD OF TRADE

Mr. Callahan: I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the board of trade in Brampton, which will be celebrating its centennial this year. Quite obviously, boards of trade assist communities in terms of looking after the business interests. Through its many commit-

tees, the board of trade has served Brampton well over the years.

We will be having a number of activities taking place in Brampton to recognize the significant impact and contribution that the Brampton Board of Trade and its members have had on the city of Brampton over the years. I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate them for a job well done, recognizing that they are of great assistance to both small business and large business in our community and, therefore, contribute not only to Brampton but also to the wellbeing of Ontario.

RIDING OF PARRY SOUND

Mr. Eves: For the umpteenth time, I would like to bring to the attention of the government the issue of bringing the riding of Parry Sound, in its entirety, into northern Ontario.

It was some two years ago that I first raised this issue with the then Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine). Since then, I have pursued it by way of a member's statement and questions in the House. I have asked the current Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Peterson) in estimates as recently as February of this year. The minister admitted that it was a very valid point and could see no logical reason the district of Parry Sound should not be included in northern Ontario. To quote him, he was going to go back and pursue his colleagues with renewed vigour to see whether he could not persuade his relevant cabinet ministers to adopt this line of thinking.

He has missed a perfect opportunity in the recent budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) to bring Parry Sound into northern Ontario. Meanwhile, people in the district of Parry Sound do not get the benefit of northern help, travel grants or full educational funding.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Given the colour of the honourable member's tie, we will pursue it with renewed vigour.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am very pleased to rise in the House today and inform members that at the conclusion this morning of the economic summit in Venice, it was announced that next year's summit will be held in Toronto between June 12 and 26. In addition to bringing together the leaders of the seven major industrialized countries, the summit will allow our capital city to be the focus of the world, as we welcome

thousands of representatives from around the globe.

The selection of Toronto recognizes the growing awareness of the importance of Toronto as an international business centre. It acknowledges the central role that Canada and Toronto will play in mapping out the economic future of the western industrialized world. It will put the spotlight on the outstanding nature of our cultural facilities and provide us with a major opportunity to show the world that Toronto and Ontario are good places to do business.

As a Canadian, I take great pride in the selection of Toronto as the site for the next summit in June and the growing recognition of the importance of Canada. I want to extend my thanks to the federal officials. I know that all Canadians will welcome representatives from around the globe with open arms.

LENNOX GENERATING STATION

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Today I would like to inform the House of Ontario Hydro's decision to reopen the oil-fired Lennox generating station near Kingston.

Mr. Hennessy: Only one supporter has applauded.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That is a start.

Hydro will be restarting two 550-megawatt units on December 1, 1987. This will help ensure that the electricity needs of Ontario are met during the winter months, when demand is at its highest.

As members may know, the Lennox generating station was completed in 1977 but the high cost of oil prohibited the continued operation of the station.

One of the ways Ontario Hydro met peak winter demand last year was by purchasing electricity from Hydro-Québec. The utility will continue this practice as purchases are required. However, increasing demand for electricity and the fact that we have the generating capacity already in place make the Lennox option of electricity supply attractive to Ontario Hydro at this time.

Recommissioning the Lennox station will have a number of positive benefits for the province of Ontario and for the people of the Kingston area.

Compared to coal-fired plants used to meet peak demand elsewhere in our electrical system, the Lennox plant will produce lower amounts of sulphur dioxide emissions.

One of the most significant benefits of bringing the Lennox station on line is the

employment it will create in the Kingston area. Ontario Hydro estimates that 70 full-time employees will be required to operate the power plant, and that another 80 jobs will be created during the recommissioning period this fall. In addition, local suppliers and contractors will be involved in making the station ready for operation.

From a provincial perspective, recommissioning the Lennox station will accomplish two important objectives: it will take advantage of a facility that we already have and it will add to the diversity of the energy sources we use.

NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

Hon. Ms. Munro: I would like to bring the House up to date on the core funding program for provincial native umbrella organizations.

The program was established in 1980 to give umbrella organizations the financial stability required to do their job. The recipients have been the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres and the Chiefs of Ontario office.

In the past seven years, the three organizations have grown and their responsibilities increased. For example, the Ontario Native Women's Association, which started with only a few members, now represents aboriginal women from 48 affiliated locals. The groups are located throughout Ontario, from Moosonee to Shoal Lake and from Cornwall to Windsor.

About six months ago, my ministry, the three native organizations and the Ontario native affairs directorate sat down to fine-tune the program's purpose and objectives. In the process, my ministry cemented an excellent working relationship with the three umbrella groups representing so many native people.

I am pleased to announce that we are reinforcing the job that the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres and the Chiefs of Ontario office will be doing with an additional \$400,000 per year. That brings the aboriginal organizations core funding program's total annual budget to \$1 million.

The money will enable the provincial organizations to consult with their members who are located throughout Ontario and to provide this government with considered advice on important issues. The program will operate on a five-year cycle starting this year. We will be reviewing the program before the cycle ends.

RESPONSES

LENNOX GENERATING STATION

Mr. Andrewes: I want to respond to the statement of the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) with respect to the Lennox generating plant. I cannot resist this response because this statement is almost laughable coming from this minister, who made such a bluster about options when he was the Energy critic for the Liberal Party.

What this minister has done is to sanction Ontario Hydro's choosing the option that produces acid rain. He has ignored the opportunity to buy electricity from Quebec. He has given us no evidence that the option he has chosen is less expensive. He has simply ignored that option and proceeded to choose an option that produces acid rain. He does not even present us with any evidence that coal-fired generation will be reduced and acid rain production reduced that way.

As his Premier (Mr. Peterson) builds this nation of distinct societies through his activities of the past couple of weeks, this minister has decided to produce acid rain in Ontario. Rather than buy hydroelectric power from Quebec, he has chosen to produce acid rain in Ontario. I would only ask the minister: is this a sign that the Premier has now begun to treat Quebec as another nation?

Of more concern is that the Minister of Energy has not risen in his place and announced to us that Ontario Hydro will pursue other options, options such as conservation and rate structures that will reduce those winter peaks. The minister has failed miserably in his job, as he usually does.

NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Grossman: Might I simply respond to the statement, which we support of course, of the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro). But I might say, as someone who has met with aboriginal groups on many occasions and who has some of these organizations headquartered in his riding, that it would have been so much more important to these groups, in backing up this modest initiative, had her Premier (Mr. Peterson) thought a bit about the aboriginal groups and their constitutional claims and concerns when he was so eager to strike an accord, any agreement, at Meech Lake and the Langevin Block.

This is the kind of thing that leads the aboriginal groups to believe the minister and her Premier believe that dropping some dollars off the edge of a table over five years will buy them

off instead of having the courage to stand up and calmly, carefully and in a measured way make sure that at the very least they get out of the constitutional process what they thought they got out of the 1982 constitutional process. They indeed feel they did not come out of the 1982 process with a lot or with enough, but certainly there was a procedure and some assurance there would be movement towards their inclusion too.

But the Premier was too eager to reach any agreement last week. He forgot about the aboriginal groups last week and joined with others to tag them in at the end. That would have been so much more important than throwing them some dollars off the edge of a table.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Mr. Gillies: In the few remaining seconds, we on this side of the House want to associate ourselves, with some pride, with the statement of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) that the leaders of the seven industrialized nations of the west will be meeting here in Toronto for their next economic summit.

We also want to note, again with pride, the very fine way that the Right Honourable Prime Minister Brian Mulroney represented our country at the economic summit in Venice. We are very proud indeed that it was the Prime Minister of this country who put South Africa and the question of apartheid on the agenda at Venice.

We look forward to that summit with a great deal of anticipation.

LENNOX GENERATING STATION

Mr. Charlton: I would like to take a moment to respond to the statement of the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio).

I agree with my colleague from the official opposition that this announcement about the restart of the Lennox plant points very clearly to the very ad hoc way Ontario Hydro has approached the provision of electrical power in Ontario over the last number of years. It points to the fact, as was pointed out in the report of the select committee on energy last year, that we need serious change in the way Hydro does its planning and that there are very serious options which are being ignored in Ontario for the sake of covering up past blunders by reopening a plant that was built and completed in 1977 and never operated.

However, on this day, we consider this statement a rather frivolous one, because it reflects frivolous operation. We have people in the city of Kanata waiting with very serious

concerns for the minister to respond to them about his construction freeze in that city on the eastern Ontario power corridor and about health concerns around that high-transmission corridor that they have raised with him.

For two weeks in a row now, the cabinet has dealt with this question and for two weeks in a row we have heard no comment whatsoever. The minister needs to spend more time considering the serious questions of energy in this province and to stop wasting time making nonstatements on the future.

NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Pouliot: I rise in response to the welcome statement of the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro). I am somewhat delighted that the minister has earmarked some \$400,000 additional funds to allow the people who need it the most, our first Canadians, to better articulate their problems so that each and every member of this House can better understand the legitimate grievances that are directed at every one of us.

When we look at what has been done in the past in terms of helping the less fortunate in our society, who have been our first Canadians, the minister's courage is great. For the last seven years, her ministry has stood at the forefront of providing people with the opportunity to present us—because we are talking here about community leaders—with legitimate grievances that deal with a way of life that anyone in this House would find, to say the least, intolerable. It is a substantial increase, indeed. We are now looking at \$1 million.

With all the sincerity at my command, I cannot find a better way to allocate public funds than to give people, at long last, a chance to become involved in the economic mainstream of Ontario. I congratulate the minister. It is a cause today for mild and reserved celebrations.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Mr. McClellan: As a representative from the great city of Toronto, I would like to respond briefly to the statement of the Premier (Mr. Peterson). There is a certain amount of peer pressure here in the Legislature that inhibits members from the city of Toronto from expressing themselves with too much pride about their city. On this occasion, I think we can forgo that modesty and acknowledge that Toronto is indeed one of the great cities of the world. Those of us who have the privilege to represent constituencies in this great city have a great deal to be proud about.

1410

I am disappointed that the Premier failed to say that Toronto was a world-class city. I would have expected as much from him.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I knew you would say that.

Ms. Gigantes: A centre of excellence.

Mr. McClellan: But it is a centre of excellence.

This year's summit conference, I think, was something of an exercise in futility, dominated as it was by Mrs. Thatcher and Thatcherism and by Chancellor Kohl's repudiation of our Prime Minister's initiative. But by this time next year there will have been a number of elections, and I think we will be proud in Toronto to welcome Prime Minister Neil Kinnock, Chancellor Johannes Rau and Prime Minister Ed Broadbent.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: Now that is scaremongering. I hope the ministers do not hear about this in Venice.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If I could have the attention of the members, I will call for oral questions.

ORAL QUESTIONS

LENNOX GENERATING STATION

Mr. Grossman: I have a question pursuant to the statement just made by the Minister of Energy. I wonder if the minister could outline what the cost differential is between in fact reopening the acid-rain-producing Lennox generating station in Ontario versus buying hydraulic energy from Quebec?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The cost will be about five cents a kilowatt-hour and the cost from Quebec, depending on when we buy it and in what volumes, will be from four cents a kilowatt-hour to eight cents a kilowatt-hour.

I must remind the Leader of the Opposition that in fact there is quite a difference in the emissions and that the emissions that are going to be generated at that station are taken into account in the overall emission reduction across this province. The restriction on the emissions from Ontario Hydro is an undertaking like no other in North America. I thought he would like to know that.

Mr. Grossman: The minister acknowledged the possibility that if he negotiates well with Quebec he might be able to obtain cheaper energy without producing any negative impact on acid rain in Ontario. Could he acknowledge

for us then this afternoon, at the very least that the result of his choosing the Lennox option instead of purchasing hydraulic power from Quebec will be an increase in acid rain emissions in Ontario? Yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes or no what? How can I give a yes or no answer to a question that has four sections to it? The member should not be ridiculous.

The fact of the matter is that the four to eight cents is not a negotiable price. It depends on when it is generated and how it is delivered at what time. I explained that early on in my first answer. It is obvious the member did not understand it is not a negotiated price, but rather a price that is going to take place because of circumstance.

I think the other situation is well answered by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), who is doing something about the control of acid rain in Ontario that is second to none in the continent—indeed, in all the world.

Mr. Grossman: In the minister's statement it says, "The Lennox plant will produce lower amounts of sulphur dioxide emissions"—that is, lower than coal-fired plants. Would the minister agree this afternoon, however, that the Lennox plant will produce more sulphur dioxide emissions than will the hydraulic plants in Quebec, which produce none?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am not as interested in hydraulic power from Quebec as I am in the initiative this minister is taking. He just opened three new small hydraulic plants in northern Ontario.

Mr. Grossman: Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am answering the question, if the member would just be quiet enough to hear it. I am suggesting to him that when we are bringing hydraulic power into the grid in Ontario, it is providing job opportunities; it is providing job opportunities in northern Ontario. It is providing an opportunity to the private sector to bring hydraulic power on without any investment by the users in Ontario. That is the direction this government is going in, and we are going to see a lot of hydraulic megawatts come on stream that were never brought into the system in Ontario in the last number of years.

Mr. Grossman: Of course he still will not answer the question because he knows what the answer is.

Interjections.

Mr. Andrewes: Sixty jobs; is it 60 jobs?

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question and to which minister?

Mr. Andrewes: What about those 3,600 extra jobs at Hydro?

Mr. Speaker: Did the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) want to ask the question?

Mr. Andrewes: No.

Mr. Speaker: No. Thank you.

UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT

Mr. Grossman: My question is to the Premier. I wonder if the Premier can give an unequivocal assurance that every academically qualified student who wants to attend university in Ontario this year will be allowed to do so.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer is yes.

Mr. Grossman: Why then, for the first time, are students enrolling in Ontario universities facing an enrolment cap of three per cent? This year the universities are facing a seven per cent increase in applications. This government has capped the increase at three per cent. Why has it done that?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The facts are right. We are looking at possibly a 6.5 per cent increase in enrolment. We are welcoming it and the minister is working out the arrangements with the universities to so accommodate it.

Mr. Grossman: The fact is the universities have so far received a seven per cent increase in applications. His minister, in announcing the new funding formula in March, instituted a three per cent corridor, which in essence tells the universities they cannot increase enrolment, and I quote from the minister's letter to the Ontario Council on University Affairs, "without having the approval of the Minister of Colleges and Universities."

Mr. Wiseman: What's the answer, Bob? Quick.

Mr. Grossman: I will wait until the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) is able to finish briefing him.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Grossman: Given the fact that the result of the cap this government has put on could mean that as many as 2,000 university students who are academically qualified do not get into universities this year, would he explain why he put the cap on?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is nonsense. My honourable friend continues to say things that are factually inaccurate in this House. Let me tell him the admissions are left up to the universities.

We are anticipating a major increase in enrolment this year. We welcome that with open arms. After years of starvation of the system we have opened up the doors, not only to better quality but to more quantity as well. I think there is a great sense of relief in that community because it has confidence in the emphasis we are putting on education, which was sorely denied by the previous government.

The answer to his question is that they will not be restricted; anyone who is qualified will not be restricted. We are looking forward to major increases in enrolment. All the fears that the member tries to persuade people exist do not exist. Will he stand up and deny those facts, yes or no?

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. On a point of privilege?

Mr. Grossman: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: What is your point?

Mr. Grossman: The point is this. The Premier has just suggested that I was factually inaccurate in the information I laid before the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: I should like the opportunity to read into the record the minister's letter, which shows unequivocally that—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the honourable member take his seat. It is not a point of privilege.

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, what are we to do?

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are many other opportunities such as asking another question or, according to the standing orders, you have the right to debate it at a later time following a session.

1420

COMFORT ALLOWANCES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is also of the Premier, to follow up on yesterday's question. At Providence Villa in my riding senior citizens are given a discretionary allowance of \$112 a month, while disabled people are given an allowance of \$77 a month. At the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital there is no allowance except the \$22 per ward per month which is distributed

by the nurses. Inmates in the Huronia institution in Orillia receive \$10 every two months.

This government has been in power for two years. Why is it the policy of his government to perpetuate this discrimination between people of various kinds who are on fixed incomes in our long-term care institutions?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I believe the honourable member asked me this question yesterday, and he is quite entitled to ask it of me again. He is aware of the discriminatory system we inherited. As I indicated to him yesterday, our attempts, and indeed our determination, to get rid of that discrimination will be announced within the very near future.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I presume the Premier is aware that within the last couple of years we have afforded a number of civic rights to people in institutions. For instance, in the last election approximately 2,000 people in our institutions for the psychiatrically ill or the developmentally handicapped voted pretty much along the lines that everybody else voted in our province.

Does the Premier not think it is a bit strange that those people have the right to determine who should represent them in the Legislature but are not allowed to decide how they will spend a small allowance to make their lives more comfortable in those institutions? Why has it taken the Premier two years to announce that he is thinking about changing that?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think I told the honourable member we would have an announcement, which was discussed today and has been worked on for some time by the minister, in the very near future.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I hope the Premier realizes there are many people in the various institutions who cross various definitional lines. For instance, in the Rideau institution there are many people who have cerebral palsy—about 20 people, as a matter of fact. He may remember Justin Clark, who was considered to be basically unable to manage his own affairs, who was then released and is now living in the community and does get a comfort allowance. There is Ark Eden, where people kept in cribs, baby-sized cribs, who seemed to be incapable of doing anything, are now living in North York and getting allowances so they can participate in the community.

Does the Premier not think that his policy runs counter to his own deinstitutionalization policy in that he is supposedly preparing people to come into the community, and yet our developmentally handicapped and our psychiatrically ill do not

have the same rights as the elderly in our institutions?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am sure the honourable member will be charitable enough to acknowledge that under this government there has been a major thrust put forward in terms of deinstitutionalization. It has been announced that many initiatives have been undertaken. We still have a major job to do, but he will be familiar with the recent announcements of the minister in that regard. It is something we believe in very strongly and are determined to proceed with over the long term. I am not suggesting for a moment that we have solved all the problems; we have not.

With respect to the comfort allowance that the member asked about a little earlier and the discrimination therein, we are aware of that. We may have differences of opinion about how to solve some of those differences, as we have in the past over certain Canada pension plan allowances and others, but I think the member will see a minister who is one of the most compassionate people in this province and who is really doing significant things. I think my honourable friend would have to admit that.

LANDFILL SITE

Mrs. Grier: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. It concerns the H. C. Lewis landfill site near Lucan, a landfill site that has been operating for many years in violation of all the regulations. The issue was raised in this House many times by the members opposite when they were in opposition.

In January 1986, when I raised the issue in this House, the minister said he would give the operator until September 1986 to clean up. He went on to say, "If it is not in compliance at that time, that is it." Can the minister explain why a year and a half later, with continuing violations, he has not yet closed down this landfill operation?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: As I recall it, the issue at the time was the capacity they were permitted at this particular landfill. I indicated that it must be brought into line in terms of that capacity by the date the member has described and that there would be no continuation of it at any capacity beyond that.

As a result of complaints that have been forthcoming, it is my understanding that the investigations and enforcement branch of the Ministry of the Environment is investigating that situation at the present time. I anticipate that if

they have noted the violations, they will take the action they deem appropriate.

Mrs. Grier: The investigations and enforcement branch of the ministry, I can tell the minister, has been investigating that site for many, many months. In February of this year, on behalf of a neighbouring land owner, the Canadian Environmental Law Association brought to the attention of ministry officials a list of violations and asked the ministry officials to launch prosecution and to do so by the end of March 1987.

Can the minister explain why they have not answered those letters and have not prosecuted this landfill operator? If they have been investigating, given that the violations had been drawn to their attention many months ago, why have they not laid charges?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member will know that when we conduct these investigations, they are often of a more complex nature than perhaps we would anticipate at the beginning. If we want to have a thorough investigation where there is an opportunity to be successful in a particular court case, we want to ensure that all the necessary evidence has been gathered and that when the information is provided in court, it is provided in such a way and in such a comprehensive manner that the case has been strengthened to the point where a prosecution would be successful.

I know the member would be critical of me and the Ministry of the Environment, and I think justifiably so, if we were to go into court with a case that was not a strong one; in other words, with partial evidence rather than complete evidence. For that reason, we want to ensure that we have all the evidence necessary whenever we are contemplating such an action so that we can be successful in that action.

Mrs. Grier: It has taken them two years to put together evidence that they consider sufficient to go to court on. I would like the minister to know that the Canadian Environmental Law Association laid charges on behalf of the neighbours. Those charges were to be dealt with in court in London in April of this year. A ministry official was subpoenaed to attend the trial in London on April 24 and he failed to even show up. Can the minister explain what on earth his ministry is doing?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member is inviting a very long response when she says that, but I know she wants to confine it to this specific incident. I can simply reiterate to her that the investigations branch has been looking at this very carefully—

Mr. McClellan: How long?

Mrs. Grier: They were subpoenaed and they did not show up.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: —gathering any evidence that is necessary and is attempting to provide a strong case for going into court, should that be necessary. It is my hope that—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I do not know if the opposition wants an answer to this. I think they do. The member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) has an interest in this as well and I know would want to hear an answer—

Mr. McClellan: Why don't you answer then?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: —instead of just shouting at me.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pouliot: Even the minister can't run the clock down for 40 minutes.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: In answer to the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot), I am certainly not attempting to do that. I am rather trying to explain the complexity of dealing with these kinds of issues in order to get what we consider to be an excellent court case. I know the member herself would be very critical if we did not have a very good case to go into court, so that if there is a necessity for court action we can be successful.

1430

ACID RAIN

Mr. Gillies: I have a question of the Minister of Energy. The minister will recall that after the Ontario Hydro banking provision loophole was closed, I asked him which of the four options identified by Ontario Hydro he was going to employ to maintain needed electrical production without increasing acid rain pollution. The minister will recall those four options.

My question today is, is this the answer, that the minister is using none of the options put forward to the select committee by Ontario Hydro, but rather is choosing to increase the use of fossil fuel and increase the incidence of acid rain pollution in our jurisdiction?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, not at all. That is not what the Minister of Energy is going to proceed with as we take into account the report on Hydro from the committee. We are very much bound to go forward with initiatives that are going to see more hydraulic brought on stream. I am very pleased to stand in my place and tell the member we are going to improve on the energy efficiency of hydraulic power at Niagara Falls in the

not-too-distant future. The member will see Little Jackfish River come on. He will see many initiatives we now have to proceed with in co-operation with Ontario Hydro. He is certainly going to see the small private sector involved, as I have explained to his leader, who is not here now.

We are moving forward with the kind of initiatives that are going to augur well for producing power in Ontario. The member should remember we have a very important responsibility here, to maintain the kind of power to the manufacturing base of Canada that not only provides opportunities for our people here but also provides a tremendous amount of money to the central government to share with other parts of Canada. We have quite a responsibility. We are living up to it and we are getting the co-operation of Ontario Hydro.

Mr. Gillies: All we have before us is the minister's statement today. After pressure from the opposition parties, he closed the banking provision. Ontario Hydro told the select committee: "In that event, we will look at bringing in hydroelectric power from other provinces. We will look at the increased use of low-sulphur coal from western Canada. We will look at scrubbers." The honourable member and his colleagues talked about this all the time in opposition. Through this statement, the minister has done none of those things.

Why is the minister abandoning those four very viable options that were put before the committee by Hydro and going instead for increased burning of fossil fuel and increased environmental damage to our province?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I suppose the honourable member would like to print 15,000 or 20,000 copies of Hansard to suggest that he is taking some kind of leadership role and that we are abandoning certain areas we should be going in. Such is not the case. The fact of the matter is the member is probably quite envious of what has happened in the past two years, such as generating power in Ontario like never before when those people were in charge.

I know the former minister is quite incensed with the fact that he did not have a government that backed his initiatives when he wanted to go over and talk to Ontario Hydro. I know it grates on his nerves but the fact of the matter is this is a new era in Ontario. We are seeing things opening up and we are going to see a better province for it.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology with

regard to encouraging secondary manufacturing industry to locate in northern Ontario. As long ago as last October, the minister had a new assistant deputy minister appointed for northern industry, who was to be there for the purpose of developing new industry and industrial opportunities in the north.

I would like to ask the minister what progress has been made, in particular related to the steel industry and the opportunities for secondary manufacturing of steel products. What new initiatives have come forward? Can we expect secondary industry to locate in northern Ontario related to steel products?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I thank the member for the question because it is a matter that we in this government also consider very important. I was very proud that we were able to appoint an assistant deputy minister for the north who is located in Sault Ste. Marie. I can assure the member that he is travelling not only in the Sault but throughout the north to look at where there could be a possibility to locate secondary industry.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I think we need more specifics than that. In February, the Premier (Mr. Peterson), in response to a similar question on secondary manufacturing relating to steel in northern Ontario, responded: "There are some discussions going on at the moment with respect to specific projects. I cannot honestly stand in my place and guarantee him that they will be successful... We are working on the projects."

Can the minister tell us whether these projects are in fact going forward and when we will hear specific results on initiatives that will bring some jobs to northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I can tell the member there is not a day goes by that there is not some discussion and work in trying to locate secondary industry in the north. There is not an easy solution to this; it will take a lot of hard work and we are working at it very hard.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Gillies: I have a question for the Premier about conflict of interest. After the government introduced Bill 23, we thought that perhaps he was finally starting to take the question of conflict of interest seriously and that the kind of noncompliance we had experienced in the past with his members was going to cease.

Would the Premier explain to the House why, after he appointed parliamentary assistants on January 5 and the guidelines clearly state they were to file their tablings with the Clerk of the

House within one month of their appointment, as of yesterday six of his parliamentary assistants had not filed their conflict-of-interest holdings with the Clerk of the House; and indeed, why one of them has still failed to put those filings before public scrutiny?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: This question was asked yesterday, and my understanding is the following. They were indeed filed with the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) at the appropriate time. The member is referring to six particular members. They were all filed by the appropriate time, and then there were some details to be worked out on one particular trust agreement, so there was correspondence with the lawyers. As I said, it has been filed with the Attorney General.

Mr. Gillies: The problem is this. The requirement is that these filings be put before public scrutiny by filing with the Clerk so that they are available to the members of this House and, indeed, the public. Does the Premier consider it appropriate that, in the case of the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine), the filing has still not been made? In fact, he has been in violation of the conflict-of-interest guidelines for some five months now.

Does the Premier not realize that these are the rules of the game and that he has to make a decision as leader of the government? Is the Premier going to ask his member to comply, even though he is now five months in arrears with that compliance, or is he going to do the appropriate thing and ask him to be relieved of his responsibilities as a parliamentary assistant?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I explained to the member before that they were filed with the Attorney General at the appropriate time. The member is trying to put this under a broad brush. After the legal details are worked out, it goes from there to the Clerk. I am very happy to share all this information with the member, the Clerk or the general public at any time. I know of the member's great interest in this matter.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Hayes: My question is to the Minister of Health. Anne Bolton, who is a 17-year-old woman from my riding, suffered cardiac arrest which caused severe brain damage. Between November 4, 1983, and March 10, 1984, Anne was admitted six times to different hospitals in Ontario. I have sent that list over to the minister ahead of time so that he could look at all the dates and the hospitals she has been admitted to. After visiting all these different hospitals in Ontario,

she did not receive or could not receive the care which is needed.

On June 8, 1984, Anne was transferred to Bethany Care Centre in Alberta, where she is getting needed treatment and is now showing progress. Can the minister tell us why they can supply facilities for people like Anne Bolton in Alberta and we cannot have those services for brain-injured people in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable member did in fact send this over a very short time, I think he would admit, before this question was raised. I do not want to say I am not happy that he has supplied me with this information, but it is very difficult to provide an answer on a particular case when I have not been made aware of all the circumstances.

1440

I think his general question, at least the specific example that leads to the general question about services for brain-injured people, is an appropriate one. We have been looking at ways in which we might enhance our abilities to provide services for the people in Ontario.

I really do not know that much about Mrs. Bolton or the care that is being given to her in Alberta. With respect to those people who go out of the jurisdiction to receive care, we are looking at the advantages and the benefits they receive under a particular style of care that may be appropriate for introduction into the Ontario sector. Until I have a chance to take a look at this particular situation, I cannot say that the style of care delivered at Bethany Care Centre would be appropriate for introduction into the Ontario jurisdiction.

Mr. Hayes: The minister is correct that I just sent that information over to him, but I can tell this House that his ministry is well aware of this particular case because Mrs. Bolton has been corresponding back and forth for the last couple of years with the Ministry of Health.

Anne Bolton is not alone, and I think the minister and the rest of us are well aware of that. In my own riding alone, we know many cases of people in the same situation as Anne Bolton.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Hayes: Can the minister tell us when Anne and others like her will be able to receive the proper care in Ontario and be reunited with their families in Ontario, rather than families having to travel such long distances to visit their children or members of their family who are brain-injured?

Hon. Mr. Elston: As I indicated in my previous answer, we are looking at the type of care, the style of care and the benefits of the styles of care that are being provided in various areas. I am not sure we have done an assessment on the care at Bethany Care Centre, but we are looking at the treatment that is being provided at a number of locations in North America and we will be assessing what opportunities are there for us.

When we get the information background upon which we can make some reasonable decisions and we receive advice from health councils in this province with respect to what may be an appropriate response to this particular problem, we will be in a position to make announcements about any program changes.

Until then, until we know exactly what the benefits are, until we know what is appropriate, until we know what style of service is required by people with acquired brain damage, we will not introduce a program. I require very thorough analysis and planning so that we can make sure we have the most appropriate services for the province of Ontario's needs.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Gillies: Again I have a question to the Premier. I would like to quote from the conflict-of-interest guidelines under which his government is supposed to operate.

The conflict-of-interest guidelines indicate parliamentary assistants will be given a reasonable time to make their disclosure, which will be within a month of their appointment. The guidelines go on to say that such disclosures will be filed with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly where they will be available for public scrutiny.

Now that I have explained those guidelines to the Premier, will he now concede to the House that as of yesterday the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Bossy), the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine), the member for York East (Ms. Hart), the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. Knight), the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay) and the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. South) were all in violation of the guidelines? Will he further undertake to check with the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and confirm that as of this moment the member for Cochrane North continues to be in violation of those guidelines?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My understanding is that the member's facts are incorrect. The guidelines refer to the filing being made by April 30 and that

was done in all cases. There is no particular time frame within which the Attorney General refers that over to the Clerk, and he was working on some legal niceties. In fact, they have met the legality of that particular document.

Mr. Gillies: I believe the Premier is inadvertently misreading the guidelines. I think it is worthy to note that if the new conflict-of-interest legislation proposed by this government were in fact in place right now, these members would be in very serious trouble.

Will the Premier undertake to order his Attorney General to bring this member into compliance and do what the guidelines under which this government is supposed to be operating tell it to do, which is to file with the Clerk within one month of the appointment of a parliamentary assistant? He has had six months and the member for Cochrane North is not in compliance. Will he now undertake to ensure that he is brought so?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is being done at the moment, as I have said, and the honourable member is not happy to accept that. We brought forward the new Members' Conflict of Interest Act and we are very comfortable with it.

My honourable friend would like to form judgements about who is in violation and who is not in violation, and that is why we think it is important to have an independent assessment. I recognize that my honourable friend would like to stand up every day and make charges whether in fact they are valid or not.

As I said, if he would read the thing, it was passed on to the Attorney General—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: There are certain details being worked out, and he will have an opportunity to scrutinize that to his heart's delight; then he can go back and make whatever other charges he wants to make, real or imagined.

Mr. Andrewes: Remember a year ago when he stood up and resigned? He was not in violation then either.

Mr. Speaker: There are members I did not recognize who are speaking when they shouldn't be.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would like to ask the Minister of Health if he is aware that it is a widespread practice across Ontario that when an individual needs a knee replacement or a hip replacement, because those replacements are

paid for out of global budgets for hospitals, hospitals are imposing quotas on a monthly basis and on a yearly basis and, therefore, people who need the surgery are put off for several months or may in fact not be able to get the surgery in a particular year because of budget constraints that his ministry has imposed on hospitals in this province.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman will realize that we have substantially increased the global budgets of hospitals over the last two years and in fact it remains inside the hospital facility to determine the allocation of resources as between the various departments and undertakings that are carried on there. We leave it to the authority of the independent boards and to the people who do the budgeting to make the determinations. I think we have found that to be in most cases a very satisfactory way of dealing with the funding of the operation of those facilities.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The minister will realize that in years past these items were in fact not covered in the global budget but were separately funded.

I would like to ask the minister how he would respond to a woman in my riding who last worked on February 15 of this year and has not got her surgery planned until September of this year. She got 15 weeks of unemployment insurance, sickness and accident, and then no income whatsoever. Both the Ontario Hospital Association and Dr. Yovanovich in Salvation Army Grace Hospital in my community say this is a widespread problem.

Would the minister not reconsider the funding for these devices and, instead of having them funded in the global budget, fund them individually so that people like this lady are not waiting for months, on absolutely no income, and being unproductive?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The situation the honourable member has brought to my attention is a real and very difficult one. As members know, we announced just recently—in fact when we announced the increased funding for hospitals—a willingness to examine and re-examine the method of funding hospital budgets so we could come up with a very effective and efficient method of reimbursing the efficient operations in the province.

I can take the honourable gentleman's suggestion into account when I receive the input which is coming directly from them. In fact, I invited the participation of the various members of the boards of trustees of the hospitals to tell me some

of the problems that are in the funding mechanism currently. That may be a very good suggestion. I am sure other hospitals will make similar suggestions to us when we consider what is appropriate for modifying our current method of funding hospitals.

1450

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. McFadden: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. As the minister is undoubtedly aware, the United States Congress today is considering omnibus trade legislation which will undoubtedly have an impact on most, if not all, of Canada's trade with the United States. Does the minister believe that this trade legislation will open up markets for Canada in the United States and does the minister believe that this legislation will create jobs here in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Again, I would thank the member. Is he talking about the omnibus trade bill? Is that the one he is talking about?

Mr. McFadden: Yes.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Of course, we are viewing that very carefully. There are a lot of things that could possibly be the results of that bill. As the member learned when he went to Washington with the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, there are many ramifications that could be very harmful to Ontario's trade, so we are monitoring it very carefully and will continue to do so.

Mr. McFadden: I wonder whether the minister would share with the House any information he might have in terms of the jobs or industries that potentially could be in jeopardy. As the minister has confirmed and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said a couple of weeks ago, there is some detailed study about what is going on in Washington. Would the minister share with the House and the people of Ontario those industries and jobs that could be in danger as a result of this omnibus trade legislation?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: First of all, I would say that we are monitoring the trade negotiations in Washington and the two different bills, one before the Senate and one before the House of Representatives. We are monitoring that very closely with the firm of lawyers we have there.

A study that was leaked to the press confirmed some of the different Canadian job areas that are at risk. Some of the areas mentioned were tires, many food products, wine, beer, many wood products, some electrical products, household

appliances, construction machinery, toys, games, toiletries, glass and buses. Those are some of the areas we are monitoring very closely, keeping a close watch on, because we feel those are areas where there could be job losses.

HERITAGE LANGUAGES

Mr. Grande: My question is for the Minister of Education. As the minister knows, on Thursday of this week the standing committee on social development will begin hearings on Bill 80. Very simply, will the minister be attending those hearings on Bill 80, since, of course, he does want to know what people in this province, community groups, teachers and boards of education, think about Bill 80 and his own proposals?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The member for Oakwood has been a distinguished member of this Legislature for 12 years. He knows precisely how the standing committees of this assembly operate. Of course, I, as a member of the executive council, will be pleased to respond to a specific invitation, but I can tell the member for Oakwood I have no intention of telling our good friend the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) how to run his committee.

Mr. Grande: The minister misinterprets. Nobody said to the minister that he should tell us or the member for Scarborough West how to run the committee. I was asking whether the minister would be so kind as to go before the committee so that he would have an education in terms of what the people in this province feel and believe about Bill 80. Since the minister will not be there, will he at the very least—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I thought you had asked the question, will the minister attend the committee?

Mr. Grande: Will the minister at the very least—

Mr. Speaker: Was that not your question?

Mr. Grande: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Put your question.

Mr. Grande: If these people wish to come before the committee, will the minister, at the very least, allow people such as the Deputy Minister of Education, Bernard Shapiro, and Jack Berryman, education officer within his ministry, who are in favour of the heritage languages program during the school day, to come before the committee to give us their expertise?

Hon. Mr. Conway: If I were to go, I might take along a recent article in Ontario Education in

which the honourable leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, the member for York South (Mr. Rae), said, among other things: "I think it is fair to say that it is not going to be a universal type of program. We want to make sure that the program has some flexibility." He went on to say: "We want to move away from the notion that a majority ought to be able to deprive a minority of access to some education in their own language."

I want to say to my colleagues that if I were to go, I might take the NDP leader's very, very sensible and moderate interview with Ontario Education, which seems to strongly suggest that he and most of his colleagues would agree with the very sensible, sensitive and reasonable position that this side is offering to the Ontario multicultural and educational community.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Point of order, and under which standing order?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As chairman of the standing committee on social development, I want to assure the minister that he can say whatever he wants when he comes before a committee.

CARABRAM

Mr. Callahan: I have a question for the Minister of Citizenship and Culture. Last year, the minister kindly attended the opening of Carabram in my community and attended a number of the pavilions. She also was kind enough to provide for what I would suggest is very much along the lines of education and is something that should be supported, that is certain funds to assist these groups in regard to expanding the pavilions they have.

Since I have been communicating with the minister over a rather lengthy period of time in an effort to secure additional funding for them, I would like to inquire whether my submissions on behalf of Carabram are going to be successful.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Through the Speaker to my honourable colleague, I was most impressed by the submission from Carabram. That submission reflects the ongoing nature and the expansion of festivals in Ontario. I can tell the member that I am looking favourably at the application and will, of course, be delighted to accompany him to Carabram.

APPORTIONMENT OF EDUCATION TAXES

Mr. Mitchell: I regret that because the Minister of Education has not given the answers

to the questions I have been asking with regard to the city of Nepean and Goulbourn, I must ask the question again.

The minister is well aware of Nepean's particular argument with the ministry about its share of education costs. He is well aware because they provided him with a full brief many, many months ago. He is well aware of the whole situation. Yet he involved himself after the fact in an Ontario Municipal Board hearing and asked for a rehearing, which has successfully fouled up the whole mess again.

I have asked repeatedly in this House for the minister to provide for me, because he has talked about equality, the list of all the municipalities in Ontario that he has referred to that are suffering the same financial impact as the city of Nepean. Will the minister indeed provide to me and to the city of Nepean that list?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Yes.

Mr. Mitchell: Well, I am very pleased to hear that the minister has responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Speaker: And supplementary?

Mr. Mitchell: I have been asking for it for several weeks. I am surprised that he has not given it before now.

Mr. Speaker: And supplementary?

Mr. Mitchell: Since the minister is in such an affable mood today, can he tell me and this House when he intends to change the legislation to indeed make everything equal?

Hon. Mr. Conway: As the member for Carleton knows only too well, I am a supremely reasonable fellow. I want to say to my friend from Nepean that I listen very carefully to what he says but I listen with equal attentiveness to what our friend from Manotick advises. I do not want to sow any more dissension in the Ontario Conservative Party, particularly in the national capital region, because the flying wedge might fly apart before the election.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) has a question.

Mr. Mitchell: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Under which standing order?

Mr. Mitchell: I believe it is 38. I am not satisfied with the answer and I wish to deal with this matter later.

Mr. Speaker: The member knows the procedure to follow, to give written notice.

The member for Nickel Belt has a new question.

1500

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. He will know that last week his parliamentary assistant grabbed headlines in northern Ontario with an announcement that Highway 11 was going to be four-laned to North Bay and Highway 69 to Sudbury. Will the minister assure us that is indeed government policy and not simply an announcement of funding to conduct a study?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not aware of any headline grabbing. I can understand my honourable friend's concern when his own name is not mentioned in that regard, but I am not aware of the announcement he is talking about. Obviously, it is a matter that is under very active consideration by the government. He has seen a major new commitment to northern transportation.

Mr. Laughren: My name being mentioned has nothing to do with it. The question has to do with an announcement by his parliamentary assistant that the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) appears to know nothing about and that the minister has just said he knows nothing about, namely, that Highway 11 was going to be four-laned to North Bay and that Highway 69 would be completed with four lanes all the way to Sudbury. I am asking the minister, is that government policy or is it just the ramblings of the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay)?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Lots of us are accused of ramblings from time to time in this House and outside this House. I am sure the member intends it in that spirit.

With respect to our northern transportation policy, the member can see a major commitment, the largest commitment in history to northern transportation. Those are two very active proposals under consideration on Highway 11 and Highway 69. The question is which and at which times. There are lots of other requests, as the member knows, for roads in northern Ontario. We are prioritizing those things. The member knows of this government's very strong commitment to making sure that we have first-class facilities in northern Ontario. I thank him for bringing up the question.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Rowe: I have a question for the Premier. Is the Premier aware of the terrible shortage of

affordable housing in the city of Barrie? If he is, what does he intend to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not in a position to give the member the specific numbers with respect to Barrie but I do know of the problems we have across the province, particularly in a number of the urban areas. This is why I will point my honourable friend back to the initiatives in the throne speech that we think are going to make a major impact.

There has been an enormous amount of activity, as the member knows, in single family dwellings. That in some sense takes some of the pressure off the market but there are many other pressures developing as well, particularly in the rental market, particularly for people of modest means. This is why our policy is determined to hit those areas. We will be happy to discuss it with the member or the officials in Barrie with respect to meeting the needs of that community as well as the other communities across the province.

Mr. Rowe: Perhaps I can refresh the Premier's memory. According to Ministry of Housing statistics this morning, there are 271 families on a waiting list for subsidized housing in Barrie. Of these, 133 families, 50 per cent, are considered to be in a desperate situation by Ministry of Housing standards, the 90-point standard.

What steps does the Premier plan to take to help people such as William Alford, his wife Elaine and their two-year old daughter Kimmy, who are living in a tent trailer near a swamp in Crown Hill now that his assured housing policy is totally in a shambles in the city of Barrie?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not know Mr. Alford. I ask the member what he has done to help Mr. Alford because I do not know the status with Ontario Housing units in that community. I can tell him that we are prepared to undertake that responsibility to help people such as Mr. Alford. If he would like to give us the details, we would be happy to work with his situation. I think he will find a government that is sensitive to these problems. We are also sensitive to the need for supply. This is not a new problem. We have made a major commitment to it. I think we are going to help people such as him and others as well.

VARITY CORP.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Premier. I think all of us are very happy to learn today that the government is supporting the shareholder's resolution at Varity Corp.'s annual

meeting in favour of the South African divestment. We are very pleased to see he has taken that action as a shareholder in Varsity on behalf of the people of Ontario.

Can the Premier tell me whether or not he has taken any action—in opposition, one presumes—with Varsity, which is the parent corporation for Perkins Engines, as he knows, which is going to be producing the engines for the Midgetman missile which is being produced in England?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer to the member's question is no. We have not had any specific correspondence or any particular directions on that particular issue.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Does the Premier not see that this puts us in an invidious position as a Legislature which has voted for our being a nuclear-weapons-free zone and yet has us as shareholders in a corporation which is actually producing engines for a missile whose only purpose is the delivery of a nuclear warhead?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I understand the question the honourable member raises. I understand his commitment. Indeed, I think he understands our commitment as well.

We are not sitting at the management desk in that regard. To the best of my knowledge, that question has not been forwarded to us, as shareholders, to vote upon. There is no resolution that I am aware of before the board of directors. I could be wrong about that. If I am wrong, my honourable friend will inform me. When we are asked to vote our shares, our minority interest in that particular enterprise, we will vote them in accordance with our principles.

RIGHT TO FARM

Mr. Andrewes: My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food so that he does not feel neglected. Can he report to us on the status of his discussions with agricultural groups about right-to-farm legislation?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: As the honourable member knows, we have received a number of submissions as a result of a task force which was set up to look into this whole matter of food land preservation and also right-to-farm legislation. There were something like 460 submissions received from the municipalities alone. My staff is busy looking at all those recommendations. We hope we will be able to introduce both the food land preservation policy and right-to-farm legislation this fall.

Mr. Andrewes: The minister will know of the resolution of my colleague the member for Elgin

(Mr. McNeil). He will also know of the harassment that a greenhouse grower in the Niagara Peninsula was subjected to by the Ministry of the Environment, because there is a plethora of correspondence with him on that issue.

He may not know that tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in provincial court in St. Catharines, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Saunders, fruit growers in the Beamsville area, will be before a judge on charges laid by the Ministry of the Environment that they operated a device in violation of sound guidelines that the ministry had in place. This is a bird-scaring device, which is necessary for the production of food in the Niagara Peninsula and in other parts of the province.

Is the minister prepared to stand up and be counted on this issue?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: If the honourable gentleman is asking for me to comment on that specific case, I will tell him that I will not. He knows it is presently under investigation and it will be going through the court system.

If the honourable gentleman is asking whether I am taking into consideration normal farming practices when we draft the farmers' right-to-farm legislation, the answer is yes. We definitely hope to have a piece of legislation that will protect the farmers and give them the opportunity to farm using normal farming practices.

LEAD LEVELS

Mr. Reville: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I have just sent him a copy of a letter dated May 15, from Maureen McDonnell, whom he knows well as the president of the South Riverdale Community Health Centre. In the letter Ms. McDonnell makes three clear recommendations about the lead situation in south Riverdale.

Next week the minister will be opening the office of the lead co-ordinator in south Riverdale. Will he make an announcement today that he will implement each of the recommendations in Ms. McDonnell's letter?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: As the member for Riverdale would be aware, because I have tried to keep him informed in these matters related to his riding, I appreciate his raising this issue, because it has been a matter of public concern for some time in his area.

I can assure him that I am evaluating the report that has been presented to me by the joint committee, that is a committee which consisted of government officials, representatives of the

company and representatives from the neighbourhood.

1510

In addition to that, I have received further recommendations from the people who reside in the neighbourhood. Those recommendations are not precisely the same; they are quite close but they are not precisely the same. I want to assure the member, because I think he believes as I do, that there is a need for some rapidity in getting this information out. I will be making an announcement in the near future.

I have assured them some time ago, and I know the member took this position some time ago as well, that we will be removing soil which is contaminated with lead from that particular area. I expect to make the announcement as to the precise amounts and the precise work to be done.

I have also been consulting with the city of Toronto and the member would probably know I have met with the mayor of Toronto and other representatives from Toronto to ensure sufficient information is available. The answer is yes.

PETITIONS

CAMPING LIMIT

Mr. Guindon: I have a petition from over 1,100 people in my riding. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and reads:

"We, the undersigned, object to the decision taken by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission to enforce a regulation prohibiting campers from using any individual site for more than 23 days."

LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Rowe: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, which reads:

"We, the undersigned, residents of the township of Innisfil, want the Innisfil sanitary landfill site, known as the Innisfil Landfill Corp., closed immediately and totally cleaned up for the following reasons." They are listed below.

That was signed by some 150 residents.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Callahan from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill Pr68, An Act respecting the Windsor Youth Marching and Concert Band.

The committee would recommend that the fees, less the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr68, An Act respecting the Windsor Youth Marching and Concert Band.

Mr. Speaker: Did all members hear that report?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: You did not hear a word? Order. There are many private conversations still continuing. Is that necessary? Shall the report be received and adopted?

I will request that the report be read again.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. R. F. Johnston from the standing committee on social development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill, as amended:

Bill 190, An Act to amend the Mental Health Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if I could ask the indulgence of the House just before we go to committee. I have received notice that the member for Carleton (Mr. Mitchell) was dissatisfied with the answer to the question given by the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway). This matter will be debated at 6 p.m. tomorrow.

House in committee of the whole.

PAY EQUITY ACT

LOI DE 1987 SUR L'ÉQUITÉ SALARIALE (continued/continué)

Consideration of Bill 154, An Act to provide for Pay Equity.

Etude du projet de loi 154, Loi portant établissement de l'équité salariale.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, before you call the sections of the bill I would like to ask for agreement that any divisions on the sections be held to the completion of the debate or 5:45 p.m., whichever is earlier.

Mr. Chairman: Do we have unanimous consent to stack the divisions to 5:45 p.m. or the

end of the bill, whichever shall come earlier? Agreed? Agreed. Thank you.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Chairman: Order.

To prove a point, I would say—

Mr. McClellan: I still cannot hear a word.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Would members please discontinue their conversations. Everyone in the chamber is having tremendous difficulty hearing.

All right. Yes, the member for Bellwoods?

Mr. McClellan: There was something said about the time of the stacking. We have an agreement for 5:45 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Members did not agree with the “whichever is earlier,” and because they did not agree it has been suggested we abide by our earlier agreement and call the vote at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. McClellan: That is the agreement, yes.

Ms. Gigantes: We agreed.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Excuse me. I thought we clearly put it. Some people could hear. Will the other people who are carrying on conversations please desist and carry them on outside. Now, I know a lot of members did not hear. We did ask for unanimous consent, and there were no negatives in stacking the bill to 5:45 p.m. tonight. It is not the fault of those who did not hear. It is the fault of those who are carrying on private conversations.

We do have unanimous consent, correct, to vote at 5:45 p.m. or at the end of the bill, whichever comes sooner?

Mr. McClellan: No.

Mr. Chairman: At 5:45 p.m. only? It is now changed.

Fine. Thank you.

On section 9:

Mr. Chairman: We now have before us subsection 9(1) of the bill, which is an amendment of the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes). We were in the midst of debate on that when we broke yesterday. Perhaps for the sake of the members I will read it:

“Ms. Gigantes moves that subsection 9(1) of the bill be amended by inserting, after ‘reduce’ in the first line and in the second line, ‘or restrain.’”

Ms. Gigantes: I had asked a series of questions of the parliamentary assistant on this amendment yesterday, to which we did not receive answers in the real sense. What we received was a statement by the parliamentary

assistant that he had listened to this debate earlier and that he essentially had nothing further to say on the matter.

I am wondering if he would do us the courtesy today to take a different tack and present us with his views about why this is an unacceptable motion, if he considers it unacceptable.

1520

Mr. Ward: I think the member for Ottawa Centre is aware that before we adjourned yesterday I had responded to the questions she raised, but I would be more than delighted to repeat for everyone’s benefit the response I gave to that member yesterday, and previously in committee.

Bill 154, as it is written, does not permit the reduction in any employee’s wages as a result of pay equity adjustments. The member seems to have some concern that because the bill does not explicitly state that wages cannot be restrained, that in fact restraining the wages of male employees is the only method by which pay equity adjustments will be made. Frankly, I do not accept or agree with her argument or necessarily her logic on that basis.

I will concede to the member, I suppose, that the potential is there, but the fact remains that in order to close the wage gap, wage increases for female employees will have to be moved ahead at a rate higher than those of the male employees. All of us recognize that; otherwise, the gap is never going to close. It would seem to me that by including in the legislation a clause that restraint will not be permitted, any male employee can, on the basis of a female employee getting a wage increase at a rate higher than a male employee, make a case that his wages are being restrained. For the life of me, I do not see how anyone would be able to prove or disprove that.

Ms. Gigantes: We may be getting somewhere now. I think the parliamentary assistant begins to understand the question. At least it is indicated by his response that he does.

I would like to make sure he understands that this motion is not addressed to the question of male wages exclusively; nor is it addressed to the question of how the gap is closed. Obviously, if one has a gap and one has legislation addressed to closing that gap, then the people for whom the gap exists and has been determined under the legislation to exist are going to have their wages increased by pay equity adjustments on an annual basis. That is the whole mechanism of the bill. No one is objecting to that.

What I am asking the parliamentary assistant to do by approving this amendment is to remove

the possibility that the women for whom this legislation is created are going to be asked to pay through wage restraint for their own pay equity adjustments. I wonder if he understands that concept.

Mr. Ward: I understand the concept the member is putting forward. The bill explicitly states that each employer within the province will have to set aside a total of one per cent of total payroll cost each year in order to make pay equity wage adjustments. I do not accept her premise that wages will automatically be restrained in an effort to achieve pay equity and to close the gap.

Ms. Gigantes: I remind the parliamentary assistant that the minister through whom he holds his office, the minister responsible for women's issues and Attorney General (Mr. Scott), has in fact encouraged employers to look upon how they will make their pay equity adjustments by precisely this method, that he has publicly encouraged them to restrain wage increases and to provide the one per cent of payroll devoted to pay equity adjustments out of that restraint. Does he remember that?

Further, if he does now understand this concept—and I remind him it is not a concept that affects the behaviour of employers only in the private sector, though the minister responsible for women's issues was addressing employers in the private sector when he offered them advice about how to make this legislation work and how to make it work without any extraordinary cost to them; this also applies to the public sector—can I ask him: would it not be reasonable to employ the same kind of possibility of appeal that was recognized by the Conservative government of this province and supported by the Liberals when they were in opposition in terms of the wage restraint legislation under which we operated in these past years, so that workers who felt they could establish in an appeal to the pay equity tribunal that they were being asked to pay for their own pay equity adjustments, could go before that tribunal and make the case.

It would not be an easy case to make. The parliamentary assistant is correct. It would take a very extreme case, well-documented, for a tribunal to be willing to say, "Yes, we can establish that in this case the employer is unfairly restraining wages and should not be doing so in order to provide pay equity adjustments, and should not be doing that to the very employees whose wages are supposed to be raised by this legislation."

Mr. Ward: Nothing in this legislation restrains the wages of any worker and I would like

to reiterate that with emphasis as the first point. Second, the member alludes to comments being made by the Attorney General, supposedly on the basis of encouraging the restraint of wages in order to achieve pay equity adjustments, and frankly, if employers wish to accelerate pay equity adjustments to female workers within their work force at an accelerated rate above and beyond the one per cent in an effort to achieve pay equity adjustments in a shorter time line, I for one do not accept that is a bad thing.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Any further discussion on the motion of Ms. Gigantes?

There being none, all those in favour of Ms. Gigantes's amendment to section 9(1) will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay".

In my opinion the nays have it.

Five members having stood, this vote will be stacked until 5:45 p.m. Again, I would remind all members if they intend to say "aye" or "nay" that they say so when it is called. Otherwise, another mistake will be made and something will be carried that is not intended to be carried.

Vote stacked.

On section 10:

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Gigantes moves that clauses 10(b), (c) and (d) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor: "(b) the third anniversary of the effective date in respect of all other employers to whom this part applies."

Ms. Gigantes: In the mechanism provided by this legislation for the achievement of the formula called "pay equity", there is a section of the working population who are women in Ontario who will, as the bill currently stands, have the right to have a pay equity plan determined for their work place.

In those work places where women are members of a union, they will have the right to have their union involved in the creation of that plan. In work places where the women are not members of a union, the employer will create the pay equity plan.

1530

The bill sets out a staging of the posting of those plans that depends upon the size of the establishment in the private sector. For the public sector, the bill says that the plan shall be posted within two years so that all women working in the public sector in Ontario will be able to see what the pay equity plan addressing their work place looks like within two years.

The bill says that for women who work in the private sector in firms that have more than 500 employees, the plan shall be posted by the end of the third year after this legislation is passed. We feel very strongly that three years should be the limit on the time in which plans should be posted. There can be no conceivable reason why in any work place where a plan is to be posted it should take longer than three years to have it posted after we pass this legislation.

I remind members that no payments will be made to women until the plans are posted, so three years after the passage of this legislation certainly allows plenty of time for every employer in Ontario who has a work place that will be affected by this legislation to devise or consult about the creation of plans to provide pay equity for the women in the work place. It is with this motive that we put forward this amendment, which would have the effect of saying public sector plans as agreed on in the bill would be provided within two years, and for all other work places where plans will be created they shall be created within three years.

Mr. Ward: In response to my friend, I will reiterate some of the discussion we had when this was before the standing committee on administration of justice for clause-by-clause consideration. I believe the amendment put here today is similar, if not identical, to an amendment the member for Ottawa Centre put at that time.

From the outset, when the government set about formulating its legislation in an effort to address the long-standing problem of occupational segregation and discriminatory wage practices in the private sector, we embarked on a very extensive process of consulting with business and labour groups. Two task forces were struck and they went throughout the province and held public hearings. We had input from private sector representatives of business groups, women's groups and labour groups.

From the outset, we tried to achieve a balance that recognized the realities of small business in Ontario, the realities of the work place and the marketplace and the very real needs of women employees as they relate to finding a mechanism to redress this problem. As a result of the input that we received and careful consideration, it was determined that not all private sector businesses in Ontario were the same, that not all of them had the same resources in terms of formalized job evaluation plans, the ability to put in place objective job evaluation criteria in an effort to make comparisons and ultimately to make adjustments.

From that determination, it was felt prudent to recognize that in the public sector, the ability existed to make the evaluations and the adjustments and that in the private sector, most large private sector firms did have formalized procedures and plans. As a result, the legislation contemplated a phased-in approach dependent upon the size of the firm, on the understanding that as each sector in the legislation came on stream the smaller corporations and companies would have the benefit of seeing what transpired with those that came on stream previously, to learn from that experience and to formulate their approach to the necessity to comply with this legislation on the basis of the experience of those that went before.

Consequently, the bill before us today has a series of anniversary dates dictated by the size of the firm. We believe this is a balanced and prudent approach and therefore we do not agree with the amendment put forward by the member for Ottawa Centre.

Ms. Gigantes: Let me simply express our view that it is an unbalanced approach. It is a kind of domino theory of justice. It is a domino theory of how pay equity should apply in Ontario. If we sit with the bill as it is before us now and say, "Fine, fine, fine; it is balanced and prudent," women who are working in firms of the size of 100 to 500 employees will have to wait four years before they see a plan posted. Then they will have to wait another year, according to the bill, before they get a first instalment of a pay equity plan, which instalment will be a limited portion of the pay gap determined to have been created by discrimination and undervaluing of the work women are doing.

Can it appear to anyone that this is fair? Why should 240,000 women who work in firms of the size of 100 to 500 employees have to wait four years to see a plan? How long does it take to get a plan together? Let me suggest to the parliamentary assistant that the smaller the firm the easier it may be to create a plan. He talks of the existence of job classification systems in large firms: some have them; some do not. Some will have to revise their job classification systems if they are to do fairness to their employees under this legislation.

Why is three years too short a time for any employer to figure out how this bill should apply in his or her work place? Why should women, having waited this long, now be told to wait another four years if they work in a certain size of firm before they even get a look at a plan, let alone a cent of recompense?

Mr. Charlton: I would like to pick up on a number of the comments of my colleague the member for Ottawa Centre and carry a little further the discussion on this question of job evaluation classification systems and the ability of employers to do the comparisons that will be required by this legislation.

The comments the parliamentary assistant made just a few moments ago point very clearly to the lack of understanding that exists over there even in terms of what the process means. The parliamentary assistant is correct that there are some large employers that already have very sophisticated systems in place. Some changes may be necessary in those systems as a result of this legislation. There are also a lot of large employers in this province that have no system in place. If the parliamentary assistant were to take the time to look at the years that were spent developing those systems in our largest employers, where you have the broadest range of different job categories that you have to start comparing, he might begin to understand that if anything they have the process in reverse in this bill and that the smaller the employer and the fewer the number of employees and different job categories that are involved, the easier the job becomes.

What we see in this piece of legislation is not only a lack of understanding of that but also a complete rejection of it. We see no plans being developed in those firms of less than 100 employees, where as you go down from 100 the job will become easier and easier with each employee that disappears, and we see the exclusion of firms with employees of less than 10 because somehow for them, where the job will be absolutely the easiest, the government is saying they will not be able to do it at all.

1540

If we are going to have a system that provides any of the benefits the government has espoused during the course of this debate, we have first to get an understanding of what the process is, what the plans are all about and what it means to develop those plans. As long as we are proceeding into this with the kinds of misconceptions that are being demonstrated by the government party on this issue, we are not going to accomplish anything of what we have talked about.

Mr. Ward: I have listened very carefully once again to the arguments put forward by both my colleagues, the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) and the member for Ottawa Centre, and I reiterate that the reality is that most large sector firms have the ability to put in place

job evaluation systems, because whether or not they have those systems in place now virtually all of them have personnel departments and expertise available and at their disposal.

I do not think or expect for one minute that the members of the third party will ever understand the realities of the entrepreneurial system in Ontario. There is no question, and I for one will not deny, that this legislation does represent a very direct intervention within the workings of that entrepreneurial system in Ontario. It is unfortunate but it is necessary that it must be so.

Consistently, the member for Ottawa Centre has put forward arguments against the phasing-in of pay equity adjustments, against the phasing-in periods for the development of the pay equity plans and the way in which this legislation kicks in. She is absolutely determined to ignore the facts. Although I would be the first to concede that it would be desirable if those wage adjustments could take place in one year and that it would be desirable if all the processes within this legislation could be completed in a much shorter period of time, the reality of such legislation would be such a displacement within the work place that there would unquestionably be layoffs and reduced employment within this province. I do not believe for a minute that this kind of justice is what the people in this province want if they have to sacrifice gainful employment to achieve some accelerated form of compensation without any regard whatsoever to the realities of the work place.

Mr. Barlow: Our party certainly will not be supporting this amendment. I think the parliamentary assistant tried to explain the facts of life that in a small business—the members have heard this time and time again—where people do all sorts of jobs, there is no job description in many businesses of 50 employees and less.

Also, I think the parliamentary assistant does not understand the entrepreneurial system, nor does his party, or it would not have addressed this in the private sector at all at this time. This sort of amendment would just strangle any business of under 50 employees, because regardless of whether they are male or female, they do all sorts of jobs.

Ms. Gigantes: They do not have plans. We are not talking about 50 employees.

Mr. Barlow: The member's colleague was talking about all employees and all employers. The amendment is not supportable by this party. It is something that would strangle all business in the smaller business sector.

Mr. McClellan: That was a curious contribution by the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow); he seemed to be speaking about some other amendment. Leaving that aside, I want to intervene because the parliamentary assistant has resorted to the blackmail argument, which is that there will be massive layoffs and shutdowns.

Mr. Ward: I think the member is imputing motives.

Mr. McClellan: If I am not mistaken, he said a moment ago that if this amendment were accepted it would lead to layoffs. What exactly did he say? We can call up the transcript of instant Hansard to see exactly what he said but I heard him say that there would be economic consequences if this amendment was passed, or was he simply carried away with his rhetoric in line with the kind of petulance we saw yesterday when dealing with restraint of wages? Now that we are dealing with timing, has his petulance just carried him into this kind of argument or does he want to retract his statements?

Mr. Ward: I will do my best to respond to the petulance of the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) by reiterating that during my comments, relative to those made by the member for Ottawa Centre in support of her amendment, I think I enunciated at some length the process that was undertaken in the formulation of the legislation. I was merely pointing out to the members of the third party that while I would be the first to concede it would be desirable if it could be realistically achieved that within one year a 36 per cent shift in wage adjustments could be attained, there indeed would be a consequence to those kinds of requirements and those kinds of interventions.

I suggest to the member for Bellwoods that it would be desirable if it could be done even more quickly than the member for Ottawa Centre proposes it be done, but there is a consequence to that and the member for Bellwoods and the member for Ottawa Centre do not appear willing to accept that. They put that forward as being some sort of blackmail or whatever. Nobody is suggesting anything of the sort. All I am saying is that there is a reality out there that appears to be missed by members of the third party.

Mr. McClellan: We understand exactly the kind of argument the parliamentary assistant is trying to engage in. I have been in this House for 12 years and I have heard that kind of sleazy rhetoric more times than I care to remember. The amendment before us—

Mr. Chairman: That word is not parliamentary.

Mr. McClellan: Rhetoric?

Mr. Chairman: No, sleazy.

Mr. McClellan: I withdraw anything that is unparliamentary.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

Mr. McClellan: The parliamentary assistant has before him an amendment that would speed up the process of payout by approximately 12 months for a group of women employees estimated to be about 250,000 people. That is what this amendment does. It is all very cute for the parliamentary assistant to try to distort the arguments of my colleague the member for Ottawa Centre and talk about one year and layoffs and consequences and lack of realism, but I say to the parliamentary assistant that kind of unscrupulous rhetoric is—

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. McClellan: I withdraw the remark. Those kinds of debating—

Mr. Chairman: The member is going too far with the terms “unscrupulous rhetoric” and “try to distort.” Those are not parliamentary. They are abusive and insulting. Will you please withdraw those terms?

Mr. McClellan: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will not dispute your ruling. I will withdraw those remarks but I say to the parliamentary assistant and I do not intend to be diverted, that those kinds of debating tactics are unworthy of him and they are unworthy of this discussion. He has an amendment before him that speeds up by 12 months the process of paying 250,000 people, so let us not talk about one-year implementation. We are talking about the difference between a five-year implementation and a four-year implementation; a five-year implementation period, which would take us to 1992, and an amendment that would bring a process of implementation and payout for 250,000 people up to 1991.

1550

For the life of me, I cannot understand how the parliamentary assistant can stand in his place and argue that this is a target that cannot be achieved, that there would be economic difficulties with a four-year implementation timetable, that there would be layoffs or other adverse economic impacts, as he tried to suggest with his little debating trick in response to the member for Ottawa Centre.

Why does he not just stand up in his place and tell us why it is impossible for the government to contemplate the advance of the implementation schedule from five years to four years?

Mr. Ward: I say to my friend the member for Bellwoods that in my initial response to the member for Ottawa Centre I indicated to her the process that the government went through in terms of establishing the anniversary dates and an effective implementation program for this pay equity legislation. In fact, I believe I was crediting the member for Ottawa Centre for what I know to be a very sincere and genuinely held view that, in fact, this process should be accelerated. It is something I know she and her colleagues believe in quite sincerely.

I have done my best to point out to the member for Bellwoods that all of this was contemplated, all of this was considered very carefully in terms of how the bill would be implemented. What the government arrived at in formulating its legislation was what it deemed to be the best, most reasonable approach that not only fits the need to redress the problem as it relates to female employees but also takes into account the realities of the work place and our system of free enterprise within this province.

It is a delicate balance, and I do not think for a minute that the member for Bellwoods will ever agree there is a balance that should or should not be maintained. I do want to conclude by thanking the member for Bellwoods for the lesson in petulance.

Ms. Gigantes: The subject at hand is the timing of the creation of an equal pay plan for a group of women—240,000 of them—who work in firms between the sizes of 100 employees and 500 employees. What we are suggesting is that they should have a pay equity plan within three years of the time we pass this legislation.

The parliamentary assistant talks about the delicate balance. Let me suggest that somewhere between tomorrow and infinity, in terms of time, there is, indeed, a balance on this question. What we are proposing is that the balance be three years.

It seems a most reasonable proposal to me and I am sure that it seems a reasonable proposal to the parliamentary assistant. The parliamentary assistant has been given a piece of legislation to carry which he might prefer not to have to carry in the form it is in.

He denies it. He shakes his head, but I think better of him than what he says to us here today in this House. I really do. I have more respect for him than to think he truly objects to the notion that three years is a reasonable amount of time for employers to create a pay equity plan for their employees.

It is clear that we have not won him over on this subject. I doubt that it is possible for him to be won over on this subject. Perhaps he is not in the position he is in of his own volition, but I have said my say on this subject.

I point out to the parliamentary assistant that while he talks about the realities and the practical nature of the problem that is confronted, we are here to change realities which have created discrimination against women. Somewhere between tomorrow and infinity would be a good time to do it. We are suggesting that the plans be created within three years for everyone, that this be the outside limit on the period employers will enjoy to create plans.

Mr. Ward: The member for Ottawa Centre alluded to the fact that I may have some regret or lack of volition in proceeding with the carriage of this bill. I just want to reassure her that I have none whatsoever. The only regret I have had in this process has been my inability to convince her of the wisdom and reasonableness of the legislation as it is before her today.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Ms. Gigantes's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Chairman: In fairness to all members—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Shame.

Mr. Chairman: I beg your pardon?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My reference is to the notion of fairness to all members.

Mr. Chairman: In fairness to all members, I would like to point out that we have had a number of amendments received at the table. Normally, this would have come in at the beginning of the bill and would have been listed at the beginning of the bill. Would the parliamentary assistant indicate for the record that he is putting in a motion to clause 25(1)(b)?

Mr. Ward: Yes. I would extend my apologies to members of the opposition for not noting this earlier and tabling it, but in fact there was an error in the numbering when the bill came back from committee in relation to a section. I will be moving an amendment to correct this error in the numbering under section 23.

Mr. McClellan: I do not believe what I am hearing. Is the parliamentary assistant telling us, after all the intransigent refusal to have the bill recommitted to committee of the whole House, after his insistence that we could not possibly have hearings in the committee of the whole

except by going through the onerous, laborious and essentially foolish and unprecedented step of having to debate a motion for recommitment and have a vote, etc., that there was a major error in drafting the bill and that the government really needed the bill sent to committee of the whole in the first place? Is that what the parliamentary assistant is telling us here this afternoon?

Mr. Ward: I guess what I am telling the member for Bellwoods is that we just lucked out. There was a typographical error in the bill. If worse had come to worse, I suppose we would have had this legislation sooner and the typographical error would have been reprinted from now until infinity or until the Pay Equity Amendment Act, whatever the process is around here.

There was a mistake in a subsection being numbered as subsection 23(3) when, indeed, it should have been subsection 23(4).

1600

Mr. Chairman: If the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Baetz) does not mind, for simplicity, I will read this. The member has tabled and will be introducing amendments to section 1—and we will deal with that later—sections 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, clause 37(g), and then section 37 in its entirety. Is that correct? Do you intend to introduce amendments on those sections?

Mr. Baetz: That is correct.

Perhaps I could be given a moment to explain why this rather lengthy list of amendments is to be introduced here today. It really deals with only one subject; namely, the replacement of the Pay Equity Commission of Ontario by the employment standards branch of the Ministry of Labour. When we get into debate on these amendments, I think we can deal with it rather expeditiously. I do not want to frighten every member of this committee out of many years of growth.

I should also say the reason we introduced these amendments yesterday in a somewhat different form was to be tremendously accommodating, as we basically are, to all parties concerned here. We were told by legal counsel that it was not quite the proper procedure, and we had to follow the pattern that has just been spelled out. It should not take for ever, I am sure.

Ms. Gigantes: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I understood you to list the Conservative amendments, starting with an amendment to section 1—

Mr. Chairman: Which I then said we will deal with later, after I had gone through the

amendments. Correct. Carry on with your point of order.

Ms. Gigantes: I believe we have dealt with the Conservative amendment to section 1 and defeated it.

Mr. Chairman: You are correct.

Ms. Gigantes: Then why was it listed? I am sorry, this is the source of my confusion.

Mr. Chairman: Because it was tabled; because the member for Ottawa West has tabled it with the chair, that is why. I advised the committee he had tabled that, and we will be dealing—fine, we can deal with it now on a point of order.

I was going to ask for unanimous consent, which would be given or otherwise, on reverting to section 1, but you are bringing it up through a point of order.

Mr. McClellan: I am reluctant to reopen the whole bill and go back to section 1.

Mr. Chairman: Then I ask a simple question: is there unanimous consent to revert to section 1?

Mr. Baetz: I simply stress and emphasize that this deals really with only one subject; namely, the replacement of the Pay Equity Commission by the employment standards branch. It is all one subject.

Opening up section 1 is not going to extend the debate in any way, shape or form, and probably is not going to change and alter the outcome of the debate. However, I would simply ask your indulgence. I do hope we can have unanimous consent to at least allow us to bring to the attention of the committee what we think is a very important subject.

Mr. McClellan: The first motion I have is to section 14, which replaces “the commission” with “the director”—that means the Pay Equity Commission with the director of the employment standards branch. Why does the member for Ottawa West not move the amendment to section 14 and we will have a good debate on the principle of replacing the commission with the employment standards branch? If that carries, we will go back to earlier sections of the bill, open them up, and amend them accordingly. If it is defeated, we can proceed through from section 14 to the end.

Mr. Ward: I think the member for Bellwoods has made a reasonable proposal, and I will give my friend the member for Ottawa West an undertaking that if that section does carry, we will support reopening the previous sections consistent with that.

Mr. Baetz: I appreciate the co-operation. I simply want to say that is the way we, in our layman's approach to this question, had thought we might be going, but we were told by the people who are the experts that you cannot go that way, you have to go back and—

Mr. McClellan: Experts are always wrong.

Mr. Baetz: That is fine. Thanks very much for the co-operation.

On section 11:

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Gigantes moves that subsection 11(1) of the bill be amended by inserting after "employees" in the third line "or employ any employees who are represented by a bargaining agent."

Ms. Gigantes: The legislation we have before us is legislation which contemplates the creation of pay equity plans only for public sector employers or for employers who employ more than 100 employees. All other employees, from a firm size of 10 employees to 99 employees, do not have the right to have a pay equity plan. Employers may choose to create a pay equity plan for those employees, but they do not have to; this bill does not require them to.

What we are suggesting in this very minor amendment to the legislation is that, at least for those private sector firms where unions represent workers, there should be pay equity plans no matter what the size of the firm over 10 employees. We have reluctantly accepted the fact that we are going to be dealing with legislation that provides no protection for people working in firms with fewer than 10 employees. We are not satisfied with the notion that there should not be a requirement for pay equity plans. There is no requirement in this legislation for pay equity plans for women who are employed in firms with 10 to 100 employees.

We are saying that, at the very least, the government might consider on this subject that where women have been and are represented through collective agreement by a union, that union should not be shut out of the process of implementing pay equity, and the women who work in those firms and are members of a union should not have to rely only on the complaint mechanism.

In those firms, we believe the union representing the women should be involved with the employers in the creation of pay equity plans. In firms of that size, depending on whether the previous amendment passes, women will wait four or five years for the creation of pay equity plans. We feel that provides lots of time for

employers to discuss with unions in firms of that size what would be a reasonable pay equity plan.

We are saying, do not shut out the representatives of working women from the process of implementing this legislation simply because those women are working in firms with fewer than 100 employees.

1610

Mr. Ward: As I indicated in my response earlier, there was a very extensive process in arriving at this legislation. The determination was made that the legislation would be proactive. In fact, there would be a requirement in terms of large employers to post plans and formalize the methodology to achieve pay equity. For smaller firms in this province, those with less than 100 employees, the pay equity plan's achievement would be a complaint-based mechanism, similar to the mechanisms that exist in other jurisdictions such as Manitoba and other provinces and jurisdictions that have some form of pay equity legislation.

We believe that approach is prudent and, frankly, I have not been convinced by the member for Ottawa-Centre of the need to endorse this amendment.

Ms. Gigantes: I would just point out to the parliamentary assistant that we are talking here about firms where the employer has, over a period of time, negotiated with unions about pay scales and has negotiated with union representatives of women employed in that firm about job classifications, hours of work and benefits.

Why is it that when we get to the question of pay equity, women do not have the right to be represented by their union on this question in relationship to the employer? Does it not make sense that in a situation where a collective bargaining system has been in place, the representatives of those women should sit down with the employer and say, "Okay, what is our best plan for addressing the problem under this legislation?"

Why shut them out? Why, in fact, disrupt? This is disruptive. Why disrupt a pattern that is in place in a particular work place by saying, "On this one subject we are not going to have the union representing those female workers involved in something that is an essential change in the work place under this legislation?"

Mr. Ward: There is nothing in the legislation that precludes those bargaining agents from negotiating pay equity plans under this bill, and I believe the member for Ottawa Centre is aware of that.

Mr. Chairman: Shall Ms. Gigantes's amendment to subsection 11(1) carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye".

All those opposed will please say "nay".

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Section 12 agreed to.

On section 13:

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Gigantes moves that subclauses 13(2)(e)(ii) to (v) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(ii) the third anniversary of the effective date, in respect of all employers in the private sector to whom this part applies."

Ms. Gigantes: The amendment that is before us now is one in which we attempt to change the prolonged phase-in period for the first instalment on pay equity adjustments.

When we look at the legislation as it sits now and the part in which we are discussing the development of pay equity plans and the requirements of those plans in providing payments to women, what is suggested in the bill is that the first instalment on pay equity adjustments in the public sector would come at the two-year point after the legislation.

For firms with 500 and more employees in the private sector, the first instalment would happen at three years. For firms with 100 to 500 employees, the first instalment would happen at four years. For firms with 50 to 99 employees, women would wait five years before they could lay a complaint because they would not have a plan as the bill now sits.

Women who are working in firms with 10 to 49 employees—remember, nobody in a firm with 10 employees or fewer will have any rights under this legislation—would have to wait a full six years after the passage of this legislation to be able to lay a complaint or, if their employer had voluntarily created a pay equity plan, to be able to receive their first instalment.

What this amendment says very simply is that we would like to see all payments begin under the legislation within at least three years of the passage of this legislation, so that three years after this legislation is passed, women who had a right to receive equal pay adjustments would begin getting a first instalment on those equal pay adjustments.

We think it is unfair that women working in firms of, say 25 employees, should not have a plan; and we think it very unfair that they should be waiting up to six years, if there is a plan put

forward by the employer, for the beginning of a first instalment on a pay equity adjustment.

Mr. Ward: Again, I believe the member's amendment is consistent with ones previously put under section 10 relative to the anniversary dates of the formulation of the plan. I would just point out, rather than reiterating the arguments that were put forward previously, that as it now stands, the member's proposal would put into effect a requirement that the pay equity payouts would take place prior to the formulation of the pay equity plan. Frankly, I do not think that is workable. I believe this amendment goes hand in glove with those that have previously been put in relation to the phase-in and I would stand by the comments made at that time.

Ms. Gigantes: What response will the parliamentary assistant give to a woman who works in a firm with 30 employees when she says to him: "When can I make a complaint under this legislation that my pay is discriminatory pay? In fact, I am doing work of equal value in terms of skill, effort and responsibility and working conditions to those positions filled by men in this firm." Is he going to be happy to say to her, "Six years after we pass the legislation, you can make a complaint"? Does he think that will be happily greeted?

Mr. Ward: It may well not be happily greeted; but by the same token, I want to point out that at least there will be a response and there will be a recourse, because in this province there will be legislation that applies to the private sector in a proactive fashion, unlike any other jurisdiction in North America. Frankly, I believe they could take some comfort in that.

1620

Ms. Gigantes: For roughly 500,000 of the two million women who are at work in Ontario, what the parliamentary assistant is saying is, "You can wait five or six years"—not for a proactive piece of legislation, because there is no proactivity if you work in a firm with fewer than 100 employees—"it could be five or six years under this legislation, if you work in a firm with fewer than 100 employees, to lay a complaint." That is not a proactive, wonderful kind of legislation. Can he tell us what he is going to say to women who ask, "Why should I have to wait five or six years to make a complaint under your wonderful legislation?"

Mr. Ward: Unlike other jurisdictions such as Manitoba, which we have heard so much about recently, the fact remains that working women employed in the private sector in this province

will have a recourse, albeit a phased-in one. Frankly, I do not have any difficulty in indicating to the member for Ottawa Centre that I will have no difficulty whatsoever in responding to that individual as to when she can take action under the complaint-based mechanisms that are in this legislation.

Ms. Gigantes: There will be women who will retire after long years in the Ontario work force without ever being able to use this legislation.

Mr. Baetz: I just want to respond briefly by saying that I would oppose the amendment, because quite frankly, the amendment once again suggests a sense of unreality, a sense of a lack of time perspective and a lack of recognition that we are pioneering or blazing new trails here.

It is true that there will be women in this province who will have to wait a number of years before they will receive the benefits of this legislation, but surely the mover of the amendment should recognize that Ontario is aeons ahead of most jurisdictions in the whole wide world on this thing and that if it takes us a few years to cover everyone in the labour force, so be it. I do not think we should regard this as terrible, as a failure or anything else.

I think we also again have to think in terms of the pressures that will be placed on the Pay Equity Commission or on whatever administration is going to administer this program. We have to consider the employers who are going to be involved in all this. Really, I cannot help but sense that there is a great wave of unreality that keeps sweeping through this committee and is generated by the member for Ottawa Centre, so I shall be opposing the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Ms. Gigantes's amendment to subclauses 13(2)(e)(ii) to (v) will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Gigantes moves that subsection 13(7) of the bill be amended by adding at the end thereof: "and pay equity plans in the private sector shall provide for adjustments in compensation such that the plan will be fully implemented not later than the eighth anniversary of the effective date."

Ms. Gigantes: This is very similar to an amendment, which we passed, affecting the implementation of public-sector pay equity adjustments. In the standing committee on administration of justice, the NDP proposed—and we had support from the Conservative Party—that

the achievement of pay equity, once instalments had begun, would be completed within five years. That means that from the date on which we pass this legislation to the date when the bill's definition of pay equity would be achieved under this legislation would be a total of seven years.

We are proposing in this amendment that in the private sector the total time from the passage of this legislation to the achievement of the bill's formula for pay equity should be no longer than eight years.

We had some examples brought to our attention in the committee where, in fact, given the phase-in contemplated in this bill for the establishment of plans, for the beginning of first instalments on pay equity plans and the minimal requirement that an employer contribute one per cent of total payroll per year to the achievement of pay equity, this whole process in certain work places could stretch out well into the next century.

In other words, from the time we pass this legislation—hopefully, within the next few days—to the point where a woman affected by the legislation and receiving benefits under the legislation was able to say, "Well, at least I got pay equity, for what it is worth, that was provided through this legislation," she might have to wait 13, 14, 15 years, depending on the size of firm she worked in and how wide the wage gap established under this legislation was.

It is also the case that as the bill sits now, as it affects the private sector, the more wage discrimination a woman suffers, the longer she is going to have to wait to have the discriminatory pay gap closed under this legislation. If there is a pay gap of 20 per cent established—and we certainly know of examples at the federal level and in Quebec where such findings have not been unusual—and if the contribution to closing that pay gap is set at a minimal rate of one per cent of total payroll per year, it is quite possible for this process of implementing of pay equity, as defined in the bill, to carry on well into the next century.

We think that is really foolish and unfair, and we think it should not be the case that the more a woman has suffered in terms of pay discrimination, the longer she should have to wait to see at least the achievement of pay equity as defined by this legislation.

Mr. Ward: Again, I believe this is similar to an amendment that was put in the justice committee and the subject of extensive debate. I would just point out again to the member for Ottawa Centre that the legislation does provide

for a minimum level of pay equity adjustments that have to be put forward to female employees. That is not to say that those adjustments cannot be accelerated through either the process of collective bargaining or adjustments at a much more rapid pace, should that transpire.

Frankly, we cannot support the amendment, which puts a cap on the amount of time in which pay equity has to be achieved, because of the substantial impacts that may occur by such mandated, accelerated adjustments.

1630

Ms. Gigantes: The parliamentary assistant has to be dreaming in Technicolor if he thinks employers who up to now have not rushed forward to volunteer to get rid of discriminatory pay practices as they affect women are going to contribute more than one per cent a year to the adjustments. One per cent of total payroll is required under the legislation, and that is what will happen in most cases.

He talks about the possibility of negotiation of a quicker accomplishment of the goal of achieving pay equity in a work place, but in the private sector—and he knows it—of the roughly 1.6 million women who are working in the private sector, only about 60,000 have the benefit of union representation. There would be mighty few for whom this dream of speedier accomplishment of pay equity could come true through the collective bargaining process. It ain't gonna happen.

I think it is quite reasonable that we suggest to all employers in the private sector that once the level of their total contribution to the pay equity adjustment is determined, they should get that contribution into the hands of women within five years. Is it outlandish to propose that when we bring in legislation that is supposed to get rid of pay discrimination and that calls upon employers to contribute to ending pay discrimination, we should ask that the job get done, even as it is narrowly defined in this legislation, within a period of eight years from the time of passage of the legislation? Is that an outlandish proposal?

Mr. Ward: If I could respond further to my friend the member for Ottawa Centre, I think all of us would agree that it would be far better if it were not necessary even to legislate pay equity adjustments in the private sector. But the reality is, as she is well aware, that the wage gap has dropped something like four per cent in the last 17 years and something like 15 per cent since 1911, when records were first kept.

This government has borne some criticism over the very fact that it is indeed legislating in

the private sector. We have tried to do so in a way that is balanced and reasonable, recognizing the impacts that significant, large adjustments could have in each individual work place and the consequences such large adjustments could result in if the legislation was not prudent and was not designed in such a way to mitigate those impacts. Frankly, we stand behind the legislation as we have put it forward.

I will say that I am encouraged that even since we began this process, examples are coming to our attention where private sector employers and indeed public sector employers are moving ahead with pay equity adjustments, not just in anticipation of the bill but also in some instances at a rate that is actually more accelerated than the bill contemplates.

From some of the conversations I have had and from opportunities of being exposed to private sector employers, I think it is encouraging that movement is taking place as we sit here today in terms of pay equity adjustments. I think all of what takes place as each phase of this bill kicks in will produce adjustments at a rate that I am sure will eventually please the member for Ottawa Centre.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Ms. Gigantes's amendment to subsection 13(7) will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

On section 14:

Mr. Chairman: We have an amendment to section 14; it does not say who the author is. In fact, we have two of them that appear to be very similar; not identical but very similar. The second is a Progressive Conservative motion. I suspect the first, dated June 9, 1987, at the top, is also a PC motion.

Mr. Baetz: Yes, it is.

Mr. Chairman: Which one do you wish to pursue?

Mr. Baetz: The one that was presented today.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Baetz moves that section 14 of the bill be amended by striking out "commission" wherever that word appears and inserting in lieu thereof in each instance "director."

Mr. Baetz: As I indicated earlier, this amendment and the many amendments that follow that were tabled here today all deal with the same subject, namely, replacing the proposed Pay Equity Commission in the legislation with

the employment standards branch. As I think we all recognized earlier, if this amendment fails, the rest would in all likelihood be redundant. I would therefore appreciate it if I could address this issue of the employment standards branch being the administrative agency to implement pay equity.

In doing so, I would first like to place on the record my own very sincere thanks to Mr. Revell and his legal staff for having helped us within the last 24 hours to regularize this introduction of all these amendments. As I said earlier, we tried to take the layman's route, the shortcut, and we were told that was not proper. We certainly very much appreciate the fact that he has kept us on the straight and narrow, or maybe the winding and narrow.

1640

I will first say that since I do not believe in the tooth fairy and similar myths, I have no thoughts about the success of this amendment. I know we went through the debate in the standing committee on administration of justice on this one, but since coming out of the justice committee and into committee of the whole, we in our party have given this whole matter additional thought and careful study.

We have talked to a great many employers about this, and we are more convinced than ever that the logical vehicle to be implementing and administering the pay equity program is the employment standards branch and not this Pay Equity Commission that is proposed to be established; this independent, freestanding, free-wheeling Pay Equity Commission.

We realize this government has a great desire to expand the bureaucracy. It has made some very substantial steps in that direction—expanding the bureaucracy, expanding the public expenditures—and this fits very nicely into that particular philosophy.

Especially with a new government and especially when times are good and the money is rolling into the provincial coffers, there is this natural inclination on the part of an ambitious Premier and the members of his cabinet—the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) being one of them—to spend the people's money on government. It looks so good: set up this commission one day, set up another one the next day and then maybe in one, two or three years' time when the money begins not to flow as much as it does today, there is the big scream, "We have to cut back."

There are many things about this freestanding Pay Equity Commission that frankly very much

concern us. We are told the employees of this commission are going to be hired through the Civil Service Commission and it will be far removed from any kind of political intervention. Yet when we examine a little more closely just exactly who is going to be staffing or perhaps appointed to this Pay Equity Commission, lo and behold, we find it is all through orders in council. It is only the lower staff who are going to be employed through the Civil Service Commission. The really big jobs—the commissioner, the chief commissioner, all the other commissioners and the big shots in the hearings tribunal and in the Pay Equity Office—are all order-in-council appointments. I would ask the members to guess how those order-in-council appointments are made.

We just heard in the last few days that they come up through Heather's list. That is where they come from. Heather Peterson provides cabinet with a list of appointments. When this bill passes, it is going to be a fantastic day for Heather Peterson and her group, because she can go over that long list of very capable and very worthy citizens who will serve this commission extremely well. She will look to see who has bought the Peterson red ties recently or who has gone to the cocktail party of the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) and, boom, those people are on the list. There is our pay commission and our hearings tribunal, and so on it goes.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It is going to be like the Senate. We are going to take members from your party too.

Mr. Baetz: The Minister of Natural Resources will probably have his own people on it as well. We were told the other day by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) that our friends should not bother to apply for any of these jobs. Maybe their friends in the accord down here have half a chance, but certainly we do not.

They create this freestanding tribunal and, the members being human beings with a desire for healthy growth, we can be sure this thing is going to grow by leaps and bounds.

The other very worrisome thing about the Pay Equity Commission, the hearings tribunal and so on is that when we get to the final section of this legislation, we turn over enormous powers for regulations to this particular commission. It can do all kinds of things with this legislation without ever coming back to this House and asking for legislative authority to do what it wants to do.

The combination of the two—the freestanding commission and the enormous, sweeping powers that are going to be handed over to it in this

legislation—will provide a time bomb for this province some time in the future.

A very major concern is that this House, the Legislature, the elected government, the elected people are going to have very little control over this commission. Some people have said this commission is going to be employing pay police. I am not spooked by the words “pay police,” but I certainly know one thing: If this commission were under the real, as distinct from illusory, control of this House, there would not be pay police because the elected members of this House would not allow it. But because of the powers we are giving this commission, that is a real possibility, and we cannot do a thing about it.

As I said before, I do not believe in the tooth fairy. As the parliamentary assistant looks across here at me as I am making these remarks—I hope very helpful remarks—I do not see anything in his very pleasant countenance that would suggest he is going to change his mind now and support us. Now, maybe—no, I am getting the thumbs-down here from the New Democrats as well. That is not too surprising. I guess that is all part of the accord.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That’s right. Team, team.

Mr. McClellan: You are offside. It is too late, Vince. You had your chance.

Mr. Baetz: This is the last hurrah. I have tried my best. For the last time, let me say that the employers in this province who know the employment standards branch—we know the weaknesses of the employment standards branch and of the present minister, but those things can be changed and corrected—would prefer dealing with the employment standards branch.

Once again, the government should know better. Aided by their bedfellows down here, they totally disregard the wishes of the employers in this whole pay equity bill. My motion will probably be defeated. However, as I am shot down, at least we will go down with flags flying and guns blazing.

Ms. Gigantes: I think the response of the New Democratic Party to this proposal can be simply put: No, no, a thousand times no.

The employment standards branch has proved that it has quite enough on its plate now. We know that since 1951, in one form or another, the employment standards branch has been called upon to enforce legislation that provides equal pay for equal work in this province. We know that it has been ineffective in doing even that simple task.

We know that hundreds of women have been fired for having recourse to the legislation that is

supposed to provide them with equal pay for equal work, that aged piece of legislation under the administration of the employment standards branch.

1650

We know the employment standards branch has never undertaken a successful prosecution of an employer who fired a woman for trying to make use of legislation that is supposed to guarantee equal pay for equal work. We cannot ask the employment standards branch to take on a task which essentially amounts to the installation of a major social initiative in this province and a large work load in making sure that initiative is carried through, in so far as this limited legislation will provide it. We must have a Pay Equity Commission and a Pay Equity Hearings Tribunal.

One word of advice I would offer to the parliamentary assistant, so that he can pass it on to whomever, is that once the member for Ottawa West is at liberty after the next election, he not be invited to join the commission or the tribunal, because I think the attitudes displayed by his input on this legislation, which is quite representative of certain portions of the Conservative benches at this point in time, are attitudes that would see to the undermining of even this modest piece of progress.

Mr. Barlow: I rise to support this amendment. This is an amendment that we argued quite vehemently in committee. It was one whereby we were trying to assist the government in making a decent piece of legislation out of this, on behalf of the business community. There is a real concern out there about this brand-new bureaucracy that would be established, for all the reasons my colleague pointed out. I will not enumerate them all.

I am sure the parliamentary assistant has had meetings with the business community. If he has not, then it is a downfall, in his position. I notice that neither the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O’Neil) nor his parliamentary assistant is here to discuss this particular issue.

Certainly, there is a need for having an experienced body that is used to dealing with labour matters, no matter what sort of matters have cropped up. The member for Ottawa Centre pointed out one or two issues the employment standards branch did not deal with correctly, in her opinion, and she may be right, I do not have the details or background on any of those matters.

Ms. Gigantes: Talk to some women for a change. Don’t limit your circle of contacts.

Mr. Barlow: I do. The same people who come to the member come into my office about various matters. I deal with them in the best way I possibly can by researching and finding out where the problems have arisen.

There is a body that is in existence now. The new commission and the new tribunal will have no expertise, unless they happen to have been picked out of Heather Peterson's potful of names of those she is trying to repay for past favours. These people have no expertise in labour matters and these are labour matters. They may well be referred to as social matters, but they are labour matters.

It is a matter of an employer who is out there to make—and this is a bad word; I know it is not acceptable to the left, and I doubt it is very acceptable to the right—a profit. Before I get criticized for it, he is not trying to make a profit on the backs of women. He is out there to make a profit by putting the best people he possibly can in the jobs, to be competitive with the balance of society.

If there is a problem of a person being discriminated against, then it should be dealt with; I agree. It should definitely—

Ms. Gigantes: Do you support the minimum wage?

Mr. Barlow: We are not dealing with the minimum wage at the present time, but I can talk about that too if the member wishes.

I am simply saying this is a Liberal solution adopted from the New Democratic Party to set up a new bureaucracy. It is a job creation program, as near as I can make out. I feel we do not need this new level of bureaucracy. Any amendments we have made up to this point, including and especially this one, are trying to help the parliamentary assistant out with this bill he brought in here. We are trying to make a decent piece of legislation out of it, so that we are in a position to support the bill. Without the amendments we are introducing, it is not an acceptable piece of legislation.

I ask that the parliamentary assistant please think about it, caucus it if he will, before we come back here to vote on this. We really would like to have his support on this amendment.

Mr. Ward: I thank the member for Ottawa West for once again raising this issue, an issue that was dealt with in committee. As a matter of fact, I believe the amendments put forward today are the identical ones that were considered by the standing committee on administration of justice. I can understand some of the concerns my friend the member for Ottawa West has with regard to

the fact that people like Robert Elgie or Frank Drea or Anne Jones could possibly be considered for order-in-council appointments in positions such as commissioner with the Pay Equity Commission of Ontario.

I will say that the member for Ottawa West did bring to the committee's attention an issue that certainly needed clarification as it relates to the role of the hearings tribunal and review officers functioning with the Pay Equity Commission. I think he made a very important contribution to the bill as we move to clearly identify and separate their roles and I want to acknowledge the effective and forceful manner in which he put forward his arguments on that particular issue.

But surely the member will recognize that, as the implementation schedules of this legislation kick in, it is fair to say that literally thousands and thousands of pay equity plans will be put forward and will have to be dealt with by some form of bureaucracy, although I am sure the member hates the mere mention of the word.

I do believe those who are needed to assist in the implementation of this legislation will require a very certain expertise. I believe there will be a need to have individuals in place not merely to make rulings and determinations, because the legislation also contemplates a very important public education component—a function that, it is my understanding, is not really undertaken to any great degree by the employment standards branch. I believe the systems that are put in place and contemplated by this bill are the most effective and prudent. Therefore, we will not support this amendment.

Ms. Gigantes: Could I just draw to the attention of the Legislature a misunderstanding which may have been created by some comments of the parliamentary assistant?

He seems to be suggesting that part of the work of this "overburdened bureaucracy," as it is referred to by the Conservatives, is going to be dealing with thousands and thousands of pay equity plans. He knows perfectly well that is not the case. There is no requirement in this legislation for pay equity plans to be filed with the commission. The only way the commission is going to know what is in a plan is if there is a complaint about a plan or about the implementation of a plan.

Do not let us get confused about this point. The plans will just be sitting out there somewhere in the work places, more or less good, more or less effective, more or less acted upon, until someone makes a complaint. We are not going to have a

great, big registry of pay equity plans in some central office.

I think it is very important for the parliamentary assistant to choose his words carefully and reflect the true nature of this legislation when he is speaking to the question of the work of the commission and the tribunal.

1700

Mr. Ward: I thank the member for Ottawa Centre for her intervention. It is most encouraging to see that, after all the time we have had in debating this issue, she is convinced that these plans can be put in place without the requirement of review officers to assist either employees or employers, or that there will be little or no activity as it relates to complaints.

All I can say is I sincerely hope she is right, but I fear there will be a need for people in place to assist, and indeed, in the short term, there will be a substantial work load. That is merely the point I was making.

Mr. Harris: I would like to rise on this. I think the member for Ottawa South—

Mr. Baetz: Ottawa West.

Mr. Harris: I have to get the Ottawas right. I should know. You put the amendment.

I heard the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) replying to the parliamentary assistant and it has given me new hope. I think she is perhaps disagreeing with the parliamentary assistant. I am not sure if that means she has changed her mind and is going to come around and support this amendment, but I did see a little crack there that perhaps she at least does not see the same need for this new, gosh knows how many thousands, bureaucracy that will be set up through the new Pay Equity Commission, so I am going to take a crack at convincing her.

We know the propensity of the Liberals for expanding the civil service, expanding government, spending every blooming nickel they can get their hands on and taxing the bejabbers out of the public in this province. That seems to be their whole aim and goal in government. We saw that with Trudeau throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s. We saw what it did to this country and we see no remorse on the part of the members of this government that that indeed is not their political goal as well.

Perhaps they figure that if they can hire all nine million of the province they will all be working for them and that is the best way to get the votes. I do not know, but I do want to speak on this and make a pitch that in fact this legislation ought to be administered by the employment standards

branch as opposed to setting up this whole new level of bureaucracy that is being proposed.

I doubt that even the Ontario women's directorate brought this forward. I think it was cabinet, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) who said: "No, let us build a new bureaucracy. Shove that down their throats. See if they will live with that." I say to the Attorney General or minister responsible for women's issues, I think they probably whipped them all in shape so that they came out in support of that as well. I suspect that. I really should not go on too much in that area because the staff does not have an opportunity—

An hon. member: Cut the staff for North Bay; is that what you want? No staff for North Bay?

Mr. Chairman: Order. The member for Oriole (Ms. Caplan) is not in her seat.

Mr. Harris: —to rebut my arguments directly in this chamber. Perhaps it would be more appropriate if I were to go on to a new line of attack. I was being highly speculative, I admit.

This is very far from perfect legislation. It is very far from the correct approach our party believes we should be following on the implementation of the principle of pay equity. Many have said this is a lousy bill. I would not use that terminology but I am not ashamed to associate myself with the principle that terminology is intended to express about this piece of legislation.

We in this party think a far better approach to this piece of legislation would be to have already begun, two years ago, to implement pay equity in the public sector. With the commitment of all three parties, with the commitment in the 1985 campaign, with the commitments that were there, there is absolutely no reason the employees in the public sector, the employees of this province are not now covered by a pay equity plan.

Second, there is absolutely no reason the broader public sector, including school boards, municipalities, hospitals, a significant number of employees, could not have been covered perhaps as early as a year ago, because with all the fiddling and fooling around and the backwards way this government has gone about this piece of legislation, that surely could have been the case. There was a commitment that—

Ms. Caplan: Does Bill agree with you? That is not what he said yesterday. He said yesterday that your party did not support any of this.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The member will have a chance to debate.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Chairman, might I ask you about the appropriateness of the member for Oriole changing into her own seat to speak out of order. Why did she not just stay where she was? She is out of order no matter where she is speaking from.

Ms. Caplan: He would not hear me if I were not in my seat.

Mr. Harris: I hear you.

We in this party condemn the government for leaving the public sector employees out in the cold for two years. We condemn the government for leaving out in the cold the broader public sector women from any pay equity plan for at least a year. We do not think one bill is an appropriate way to cover all three and we have made those arguments. As well, we have made a significant number of amendments to try to make this a better piece of legislation and all of them have been turned aside.

We are dealing here with an amendment. I am finally getting to the point, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for not calling me to the specifics of this amendment. I think that preamble was necessary for me to get to the specifics.

This amendment does not change the bill, does not change the principle and does not change the intent. What we are talking about is how this bill is going to be enforced; many in the private sector say how it is going to be policed. My colleague the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Baetz) mentioned the term "pay police." I guess it bothers me that there are employers out there who feel threatened, not by the legislation, not by the principle and not by what is in here, but by a fear of what is going to be set up to help administer this piece of legislation.

My colleagues from the New Democratic Party have pointed out that they feel there are some loopholes in this legislation. What one person calls a loophole is different from what others call it. I think it is important that every piece of legislation that comes forward requires the co-operation of the people it is intended for. We tax the bejabbers out of all Ontarians but it still requires their co-operation to give up their money voluntarily and say, "I owe you this and here it is." It requires their co-operation. If we had to police everybody, it would cost us more to collect the money than the amount of money we would get in.

If the government taxed 100 per cent of the income, for example, nobody would pay it. They would all cheat. They would not volunteer it. What happens in our society and in all societies is that when governments go too far, get too silly

and get too unreasonable, there is a revolt, a rebellion, and you do not get the co-operation of the very people you need co-operation from to make legislation work.

1710

It is important that they consider the views of the business community, of the employers, of the people they are so proud to say create all the jobs. I am proud to say it too. I have never seen government create one single job other than government jobs. I admit it creates the civil service jobs, but when I see a member of this Legislature standing up or a member of any parliament standing up and making a little speech when he cuts the ribbon, saying, "Our government is proud to have created these jobs" when this plant is opened, that is a lot of crap.

Mr. Brandt: Baloney.

Mr. Harris: It is a lot of baloney. The most a government could ever claim is that it went so far as to not interfere, so that this guy finally decided to go ahead and build the plant. That is about the best a government could claim.

One needs the co-operation for this piece of legislation. One needs the co-operation of those employers in the private sector, and they have said a couple of things to the members. They have said, "We are not real happy with the way this legislation is evolving, but if you want to try it, make sure that when you try it you give us an opportunity to comply and that you give us an opportunity to work with the legislation."

They have also said, "We are comfortable working with the employment standards branch." I was a little surprised to hear that, because many employers have told me they found the employment standards branch and some of the people in the Ministry of Labour to be fairly tough on employers, interfering with their business and sticking their nose where they do not belong. I have had that said to me on many occasions, so I was surprised when they said they would prefer the employment standards branch.

Ms. Gigantes: Were they breaking the law?

Mr. Harris: No, in many cases they were not, but in many cases it cost them thousands and thousands of dollars before they could get to somebody impartial who realized they were not breaking the law. That occurs. Now they have said: "In spite of that, we are more comfortable with the employment standards branch than we are with a whole new bureaucracy in a Pay Equity Commission. We have seen this government. When it says it will not be a big bureaucracy, we

do not believe it." And the public of Ontario ought not to believe it.

We have seen some 6,000 new civil servants being added over the last two years by this government, after seven years of restraint that finally cut down some 5,000. It is not a difficult task. When one first talks about trying to do things more efficiently, one finds employees will resist that because it may mean their jobs. But I can tell the members that after seven years of that, there was a lean, excellent civil service in Ontario that was proud to do the job more efficiently.

What has happened in the last two years? The government says: "Hey, the gates are open. We can hire more people. Hire however many you want." That tends to foster an attitude where people say: "Why should I try and get more done in the eight-hour day? Why not hire my friend? Then we both have jobs." That is the attitude the government is fostering, and that is the attitude we see going into this Pay Equity Commission. We see numbers, we see less incentive to do jobs efficiently, and as my colleague the member for Ottawa West has pointed out, we see perhaps some desire to shorten Heather Peterson's list and say, "Let us get some more places where we can make some appointments."

I think employers have a right to fear a separate Pay Equity Commission. It is an unknown for them. I would expect that very likely the key operative person to be appointed in this will not be, for instance, Alan Warren, the head of Canadian Tire Corp. in North Bay. I doubt that his name is on Heather Peterson's list for this particular appointment.

If this amendment loses, I realize there are about 15 or 16 others that are all companions to this, and I think the member for Ottawa West has said there is then not much point in proceeding with the others because they are all tied into this particular amendment. If the members are worried about me speaking on the other amendments, if that is going to hold them up from supporting it, I will not speak on them. They can go through lickety-split after we have made our comments on this one.

We are not talking about the principle of the bill. We are not talking about the legislation. We are talking about what those people who have to make it work are going to be more comfortable with: the employment standards branch or a separate Pay Equity Commission. They have said they would be more comfortable with the employment standards branch. They are going to give the same direction to both of them: to

enforce the legislation. What difference does it make to them unless they really do want to set up a new bureaucracy, a whole new commission and have a whole bunch more appointments and civil servants?

I cannot think of any other reason they would not allow the employment standards branch of the Ministry of Labour—the branch that has had experience with equal pay, in dealing with employers and in dealing with employees who have disputes with their employers—I cannot think of any other reason they would proceed to set this up. Perhaps they just want to say to business: "You are going to get this whether you like it or not. We do not care about your amendments." Finally, they are going to spit on them and say, "This is how we are going to enforce it."

I cannot think of any other reason. Maybe they purposely want to make them mad. I have not seen any good reason given here in the time of all this shemuzzle in the way they have handled all the bills that have been brought in and pulled back and not been proceeded with.

I have not heard any good reason why this amendment does not make sense. I urge members of this Legislature to support the amendment put forth by the member for Ottawa West. It will perhaps lead to a little bit of acceptance from the business community and it might lead to a little more compliance, a little more ease of operation with this bill and a little better attitude towards this bill. I suggest that if they have that attitude, they can probably administer it with several thousand fewer people.

Mr. Barlow: I would like to ask one quick question of the parliamentary assistant. How many new positions does he see being added to build the commission and the tribunal. Has he any idea?

Mr. Ward: I believe the tribunal consists of three people. In terms of review officers who would be hired to work for the Pay Equity Commission, I can assure him that not one person will be hired to administer this legislation beyond what is absolutely essential.

Mr. Barlow: Then the budget will not be any more than would be essential. Is that a fair answer?

Mr. Brandt: By way of clarification, I wonder whether the parliamentary assistant can give us his definition of what the words "absolutely essential" mean. Can he quantify that for us?

Mr. Ward: It is exactly the number of people necessary to administer this legislation effectively.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further comments on this amendment?

Mr. Baetz: I have one final comment. When I hear the dulcet tones of the member for Ottawa Centre ringing through this chamber, saying against my proposal, "No, no, a thousand times no," I am more convinced than ever that I am right.

Ms. Gigantes: I would like to ask the parliamentary assistant whether his projection of how many people would be essential for the oversight of this legislation at the commission would be approximately the same number that would be required in the employment standards branch to carry out the job effectively, were we to accept the Conservative amendment.

1720

Mr. Ward: I am sorry; I missed the question because of the conversation that was going on.

Ms. Gigantes: I was asking whether you thought the estimate we might make of the number of people required to carry out the overseeing of this legislation in the Pay Equity Commission would be about equivalent to the number of people who would have to be hired in the employment standards branch to carry out that job under the Conservative amendment.

Mr. Ward: My difficulty is not so much in the question as how it was put. I would say the member makes a valid point that the people who would be required to administer this act, whether they be in the employment standards branch or in the Pay Equity Commission under the Ministry of Labour, should not be different in numerical terms because of the tasks that are being undertaken here through the Pay Equity Commission. I would reiterate that one of the most consistent concerns we have heard from the business community is the need to have people who can provide a level of expertise and consultation and who can provide educational impetus for employers.

I do want to reiterate that I think the expertise is different; not necessarily exactly the same as would be required in the employment standards branch, but the member is absolutely right, there would be no efficiency in terms of actual numbers.

Mr. Harris: Since the question has been brought up, I would submit that I do not accept that answer. I think I made my point very clearly, and I will go back over it and do it again. Let us take income tax, for example; if nobody wants to pay tax, if people are not happy with the way they are being treated, it is going to take 50, 100 or

1,000 times the number of people to administer the Income Tax Act.

If people are not happy with the people who are administering this piece of legislation, it could take 10, 50, 100 or 1,000 times more people to administer it. The people the government is going to have to deal with have said they are not happy. They have said they would like to deal with the employment standards branch. The parliamentary assistant is talking about compliance. They have said, "We would be happier—we would trust the employment standards branch more."

We are dealing with people who already have expertise in the area. I am not saying we are not going to have to add one or two more people. Sure we are going to have to hire more people, but I think it is very clear that there would be fewer people necessary under the employment standards branch route, and I think we would have a much smoother implementation with this piece of legislation.

Mr. Chairman: Shall Mr. Baetz's amendment to section 14 carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Chairman: The next amendment we have is to section 15.

Mr. Baetz: In light of what I said earlier, it is with a heavy heart and with great sadness for the province and for the employers that I shall be withdrawing the other amendments. I think that is the proper thing to do at this point in time. It will help us in the procedure.

Mr. McClellan: Let me make a suggestion. In the eventuality that this amendment of the member for Ottawa West carries, we could agree to go back, reopen the bill and introduce the rest of the package of amendments. If the amendment does not carry, then it is not necessary to proceed. We will certainly agree to give unanimous consent to go back, if his motion carries, and redo the entire bill.

Mr. Chairman: For the record, there is unanimous consent. We are going to carry sections 15, 16 and those others that relate to 14. There is unanimous consent that we will revert not only to section 1 but also to all those others which relate to sections 14 and 1; they will be reopened.

The member for Ottawa West will have to assist me on which sections of these many amendments relate to section 14 and section 1.

Mr. Baetz: Sections 15, 16, 17, 22 and 23.

Mr. Chairman: Not 18?

Mr. Baetz: I do not have 18; it is an NDP amendment.

Sections 15 to 17, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 18:

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Gigantes moves that section 18 of the bill be amended by striking out "more than nine and fewer than 100 employees" in the second and third lines and inserting in lieu thereof "fewer than 100 employees, none of whom are represented by a bargaining agent."

Ms. Gigantes: Very briefly, this is similar to the amendment we had previously placed to section 11. It would have the effect of ensuring that in work places with fewer than 100 employees, where the bill currently requires no pay equity plan, if there were a union representing the employees in that work place, there would be a plan created by the employer and representatives of the employees.

Even though this legislation does not require a pay equity plan for a work place of fewer than 100 employees, we feel that in a situation where collective bargaining is established and the women do have a union representative, it makes perfect sense that the collective bargaining pattern be followed through on this question of pay equity and that the implementation of this legislation for such a firm would be one where there would be a pay equity plan.

Mr. Ward: The amendment put forward by my friend the member for Ottawa Centre is similar to an amendment put forward previously to section 11 of the bill. I will stand by the comments I made at that time and indicate that we will not be supporting this amendment.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. D. R. Cooke): All those in favour of Ms. Gigantes's amendment to section 18 will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Sections 19 and 20 agreed to.

On section 21:

Ms. Gigantes: We would like to vote against this section because it would be redundant under one of our previous amendments.

The Acting Chairman: Shall section 21 carry? All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

1730

On section 22:

The Acting Chairman: There is an amendment from the member for Ottawa West.

Mr. Baetz: I will be guided. Do I move this amendment now?

The Acting Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Baetz: I move that section 22 of the bill be amended by striking out "commission" wherever that word appears and "hearings tribunal" in the first line of subsection 3 and inserting in lieu thereof in each instance "director."

Mr. McClellan: We have already been through this. I do not know where the regular Chairman has gone. It is a problem when we come to agreements and then the Chairman leaves, but I believe this is part of the package of amendments we have agreed we will not proceed with unless we have a vote at 5:45 p.m. and the amendment to section 14 carries.

Maybe this was not part of the same package of amendments, but I think it is. Therefore, it is not necessary at this time for the honourable member to move the amendment. If the vote on his amendment to section 14 carries, then we will come back and deal with this amendment.

The Acting Chairman: I acknowledge your concern. I will turn the chair over to a more permanent chairman.

Mr. Baetz: Thank you. I had assumed that was the procedure. I guess it will now be so again, since we have the old Chairman back.

Mr. Chairman: The old Chairman?

Mr. Baetz: The former Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Having been in seclusion when the young Chairman was in the chair, I understand section 22 is one of the sections that relates to sections 1 and 14.

Mr. Baetz: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: This is the same. Is section 23 also the same?

Mr. Baetz: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Let us go through them. Sections 23, 24; this is under the same understanding and unanimous consent to revert.

Sections 22 to 24, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 25:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Ward moves that clause 25(1)(b) of the bill be amended by striking out "subsection 23(3)" in the second line and inserting in lieu thereof "subsection 23(4)."

Mr. Ward: During the course of the committee's deliberations and the amendments that were made when the bill was reprinted, I understand there was a change in numbering as a result of the amendments that were made in committee. Therefore, we are moving this amendment to correct an oversight that was made.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: An oversight?

Mr. McClellan: I hope the government House leader (Mr. Nixon) is paying attention to this. It is a government amendment.

Mr. Breagh: Imagine that. A government amendment at this late date.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Even we are not perfect.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Harris: This is not the only government amendment. I understand it is one of a package of three government amendments.

I will be very brief. I regretted I was not in this chamber when the first two were moved, but I happen to be fortunate enough to be here now when this third one is moved.

This is from a parliamentary assistant and a government that insisted, in fact, in a precedent-setting vote where, I believe, almost unanimously, with the exception of section 10a of one bill the Attorney General had, have I seen people being co-operative, willing to go back over and make sure every member has an opportunity to have a say on a particular piece of legislation. But no, the government said, "No, that is it, this bill goes, no more debate, no more changes." Then they come in with now the third amendment they want us to consider.

We are not opposed to that particular amendment and we are not opposed to the member bringing it in, but I think it ought to be on the record that it is a sign of a very arrogant government that treats the Legislature with the contempt we were treated to last week when members wanted to review one or two small items of this particular piece of legislation.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. D. R. Cooke): Shall the amendment of Mr. Ward to clause 25(1)(b) carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Chairman: I understand the next amending motion of Mr. Baetz to section 25 is again related to section 1.

Mr. Baetz: That is right.

The Acting Chairman: The same for sections 26 and 27? You have a note in here indicating you wish to speak to section 27, which is called recommendations.

Mr. Baetz: No, we have covered that.

The Acting Chairman: Sections 28 through 31 are the same?

Mr. Baetz: That is correct.

The Acting Chairman: Fine. I have no more amendments until the government motion to section 32.

Section 25, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 26 to 31, inclusive, agreed to.

The Acting Chairman: It is also understood, of course, under that last, carrying that of Mr. Baetz, that is according to the same understanding, unanimous consent.

Agreed to.

On section 32:

The Acting Chairman: On section 32, it says a government motion but it is not really a motion. Does the parliamentary assistant have some comments on this?

Mr. Ward: I would say it is a suggestion that section 32 be voted against in that it is redundant. A later section in the bill covers the same topic. It is not that the legislation was not well drafted, there was just some unnecessary wording in there, and it will make for a much neater package if we would have members' support on that.

Ms. Gigantes: Neat?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: That is what we are interested in; neatness.

Mr. Harris: I would say only that, should the further section be defeated when we get to it, we would agree to give unanimous consent to come back to this.

The Acting Chairman: Shall section 32 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

1740

On section 33:

Mr. Chairman: Is section 33 the same?

Mr. Baetz: The same. That relates to the employment standards branch.

Ms. Gigantes: I have a motion on section 34.

Mr. Chairman: Excuse me just one moment. May I ask the member for Ottawa West, is your amendment to subsections 33(1), (2) and (3) the same topic again?

Mr. Baetz: That is right.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Therefore, under the same understanding and unanimous consent, shall section 33 stand as part of the bill?

Section 33 agreed to.

On section 34:

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Gigantes, you have an amendment, subsections 34(2a), (2b) and (2c).

Ms. Gigantes: Indeed, I do.

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Gigantes moves that section 34 be amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

“(2a) The recommendations referred to in clause (2)(e) shall establish the basis on which comparisons are to be made and shall include proposals for the amendment of this act.

“(2b) The minister shall promptly introduce in the Legislative Assembly amendments to this act that implement the recommendations referred to in clause (2)(e).

“(2c) The amendments shall be considered promptly by the Legislative Assembly in order that the discrimination experienced by the female job classes described in clause (2)(e) may be redressed as nearly as possible according to the timetable set out in this act.”

Ms. Gigantes: I will be very brief because I am hopeful we may be able to come to completion of the amending process within a few moments and have our votes to wrap it up.

This amendment addresses the very difficult question that is unresolved in the legislation of what will happen to women, some of whom are the most discriminated against in pay schedules across Ontario, who work in situations where there are no male jobs to which their own jobs can be compared. Those women would be found in day care centres in this province. They would be found working in libraries in this province. They would be working in places where women's work is being carried on and there are few, if any, males employed at all to which the female positions could be compared.

The legislation as it is now before us simply says that the tribunal shall undertake a study of the situation of women working in such work places where there is no male comparable available and shall make recommendations to the government. The amendments that are before us now and proposed on behalf of the New Democratic Party, suggest that we attempt to put in the language of this legislation the urgency we feel about the situation of women in such places of employment.

We would like to see, number one, that the legislation says the government has to take action

based on the recommendations of the tribunal, and number two, that this action shall as nearly as possible provide pay equity adjustments suitable for women in work places with no male comparable on the same time schedule as those set out for other women within this legislation.

Mr. Ward: Briefly, the government does not support this amendment. As the member for Ottawa Centre knows, we worked long and hard trying to arrive at the wording in this section of the legislation. I would point out that the obligation in terms of amending legislation—and I would also reiterate that this bill has an automatic review process built into it in other matters—the obligation in terms of putting forward legislation does rest with the government and the minister responsible at the time. We have put in the section that does in fact represent an amendment from the original bill, a one-year timetable, and I believe that is appropriate.

Mr. Chairman: Any further comments on Ms. Gigantes's amendment? There being none, shall the amendment to add subsections 34(2a), 34(2b) and 34(2c) carry?

All those in favour will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Chairman: It being 5:45 p.m., do we have unanimous consent to waive the 5:45 stacking and carry on with clause-by-clause consideration?

Agreed to.

On sections 35 and 36:

Mr. Chairman: The member for Ottawa West has two amendments which are probably deferred.

Mr. Baetz: That is right.

Mr. Chairman: One was put in yesterday and one today.

Mr. Baetz: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Sections 35 and 36 are the same.

Sections 35 and 36, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 37:

Mr. Chairman: Clause 37(g)—

Mr. Baetz: That is different. I also have one on section 37.

Mr. Chairman: Is the hearings tribunal the subject of clause 37(g)?

Mr. Baetz: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Then there is another one with regard to 37 only, the Lieutenant Governor in Council making regulations.

Mr. Baetz: Right. That is different.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Baetz moves that section 37 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"37. The Lieutenant Government in Council may make regulations,

"(a) prescribing forms and notices and providing for their use;

"(b) prescribing criteria that shall be taken into account in deciding whether a job class is a female job class or a male job class;

"(c) adding to the appendix to the schedule any person or class of persons or any agency, authority, board, commission, corporation or organization of any kind and providing that the mandatory posting date for an entity so added shall be such date as is set out in the regulations."

Mr. Baetz: I want to make very brief comments on this because I touched on one aspect of it before. This relates to the sweeping powers given to the commission to set up and carry out regulations. That is, of course, a commission that we have opposed through earlier amendments. We really feel here, as I indicated earlier, these kinds of sweeping powers given to the commissioners are totally inappropriate. It means they can do almost anything they like without coming back to this House, and that is something we frankly cannot support.

In the light of what has happened before, I would think this too is going to be in discussions with other members of the committee. I am quite confident, once again, seeing I do not believe in the tooth fairy, that this amendment is going to be defeated and, therefore, this is my last hurrah and my last statement on this particular bill. I simply want to say that because none of our very important amendments have been accepted by the committee, we cannot help but feel that as a committee we have tried to create a silk purse out of a sow's ear and we have failed.

There are many clauses in this bill that we as a party do not like, but we are committed to the principle of pay equity, so much so that in spite of the fact that there is much in here that is very, very undesirable, I suspect that when it comes to the final vote we will close our eyes, plug our ears, hold our noses and support the legislation.

1750

Mr. Charlton: Very briefly, I would just like to say to the member for Ottawa West that I wish he would stop repeating his very negative

comment about his refusal to believe in the tooth fairy. It is upsetting some of us.

Mr. Chairman: Any further comments on this amendment of Mr. Baetz to section 37? There being none, shall Mr. Baetz's amendment to section 37 regarding regulations carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Chairman: I am all out of amendments. Correct?

Sections 38 to 42, inclusive, agreed to.

Schedule and appendix agreed to.

1800

The committee divided on Ms. Gigantes's amendment to subsection 9(1), which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes 17; nays 56.

Section 9 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms. Gigantes's amendment to clauses 10(b), (c) and (d), which was negated on the same vote.

Section 10 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms. Gigantes's amendment to subsection 11(1), which was negated on the same vote.

Section 11 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms. Gigantes's amendment to subclauses 13(2)(e)(ii) to (v), inclusive, which was negated on the same vote.

The committee divided on Ms. Gigantes's amendment to subsection 13(7), which was negated on the same vote.

Section 13 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: The next amendment is an amendment by Mr. Baetz to section 14, and you will recall that this is an important amendment upon which many other amendments will hinge.

The committee divided on Mr. Baetz's amendment to section 14, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes 21; nays 52.

Section 14 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: That will be correct. It is understood that all the other amendments are negated.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Next, we have section 18.

Would the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) and the three in the centre of the front row of the opposition benches please be seated.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. We do not want to have any error here.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

The committee divided on Ms. Gigantes's amendment to section 18, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 17; nays 56.

Section 18 agreed to.

The committee divided on whether section 21 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 56; nays 17.

Section 21 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms. Gigantes's amendment to section 34, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 17; nays 56.

Section 34 agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. Baetz's amendment to section 37, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 21; nays 52.

Section 37 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

Le projet de loi, modifié, sera rapporté.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with certain amendments.

The House adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

CONTENTS

Wednesday, June 10, 1987

Members' statements

Highway construction , Mr. Pierce, Mr. Morin-Strom	1236
Rondeau Bay , Mr. McGuigan	1237
Pollution control , Mr. Stevenson	1237
Patients' rights , Mr. Reville	1238
Brampton Board of Trade , Mr. Callahan	1238
Riding of Parry Sound , Mr. Eves	1238

Statements by the ministry

Economic summit , Hon. Mr. Peterson	1238
Lennox generating station , Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1239
Native organizations , Hon. Ms. Munro	1239

Responses

Lennox generating station , Mr. Andrewes	1240
Native organizations , Mr. Grossman	1240
Economic summit , Mr. Gillies	1240
Lennox generating station , Mr. Charlton	1240
Native organizations , Mr. Pouliot	1241
Economic summit , Mr. McClellan	1241

Oral questions

Lennox generating station , Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1241
University enrolment , Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1242
Comfort allowances , Mr. R. J. Johnston, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1243
Landfill site , Mrs. Grier, Hon. Mr. Bradley	1244
Acid rain , Mr. Gillies, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1245
Northern development , Mr. Morin-Strom, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1245
Conflict-of-interest guidelines , Mr. Gillies, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1246
Access to health services , Mr. Hayes, Hon. Mr. Elston	1246
Conflict-of-interest guidelines , Mr. Gillies, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1247
Hospital funding , Mr. D. S. Cooke, Hon. Mr. Elston	1248
Trade with United States , Mr. McFadden, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1249
Heritage languages , Mr. Grande, Hon. Mr. Conway	1249
Carabram , Mr. Callahan, Hon. Ms. Munro	1250
Apportionment of education taxes , Mr. Mitchell, Hon. Mr. Conway	1250
Highway construction , Mr. Laughren, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1251
Affordable housing , Mr. Rowe, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1251
Varity Corp. , Mr. R. F. Johnston, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1251
Right to farm , Mr. Andrewes, Hon. Mr. Riddell	1252
Lead levels , Mr. Reville, Hon. Mr. Bradley	1252

Petitions

Camping limit , Mr. Guindon, tabled	1253
Landfill site , Mr. Rowe, tabled	1253

Reports by committees

Standing committee on regulations and private bills , Mr. Callahan, agreed to	1253
Standing committee on social development , Mr. R. F. Johnston, agreed to	1253

Committee of the whole House/Comité plénier

Pay Equity Act , Bill 154, Hon. Mr. Scott, Hon. Mr. Nixon, Ms. Gigantes, Mr. Ward, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Barlow, Mr. McClellan, Mr. Baetz, Mr. Harris, reported	1253
Loi de 1987 sur l'équité salariale , loi 154, l'hon. M. Scott, l'hon. M. Nixon, Mme Gigantes, M. Ward, M. Charlton, M. Barlow, M. McClellan, M. Baetz, M. Harris, rapportée .	1253

Other business

Portuguese National Day , Hon. Mr. Ruprecht, Mr. Shymko, Mr. McClellan	1235
Notice of dissatisfaction , Mr. Speaker	1253
Adjournment	1276

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
 Baetz, R. C. (Ottawa West PC)
 Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
 Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)
 Caplan, E. (Oriole L)
 Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education and acting Minister of Government Services (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, D. R., Acting Chairman (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
 Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
 Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
 Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
 Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)
 Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
 Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)
 Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
 Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
 Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
 Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
 Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
 McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
 McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)
 McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
 Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)
 Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Hamilton Centre L)
 Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
 O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)
 Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines (London Centre L)
 Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)
 Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)
 Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)
 Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)
 Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio (Parkdale L)
 Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
 Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development (York North L)
 Stephenson, B. M. (York Mills PC)
 Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
 Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
 Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)
 Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Third Session, 33rd Parliament
Thursday, June 11, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, June 11, 1987

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

MUNICIPAL-INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY FOR ABATEMENT

Mr. Gillies moved resolution 17:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government's MISA program, which only covers companies dumping industrial effluent directly into the province's waterways, should be extended to now include the additional 97.5 per cent of water polluters in this province that are dumping into the province's municipal sewer systems.

Mr. Gillies: I am very pleased to have the opportunity of putting this resolution before the House as I believe it is a resolution which, if adopted by the government and implemented by the Ministry of the Environment, could substantially improve the quality of water for our province and I believe in a tangible way improve the quality of life for the people of Ontario.

The basic philosophy of the MISA program, which is in the implementation and design stage by the ministry, is "the virtual elimination of persistent toxic contaminants in municipal and industrial discharges into Ontario's waterways." What are we talking about? The traditional approach to industrial effluent and of past control programs has been aimed at the conventional pollutants such as biodegradable wastes, suspended solids, ammonia, phosphorus, some metals, oils, grease and phenols.

As our knowledge of water pollution has increased and as industrial processes have become more sophisticated and employ a much wider variety of chemical substances, we now have growing concerns about toxic metals such as mercury, lead and arsenic, and about toxic organics or carbon-based compounds, such as dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls and chlorinated benzenes.

The regulations that are being developed currently by the Ministry of the Environment to implement the MISA program are going to require dischargers to monitor effluents and to

comply with strict effluent limits based on best available technology economically achievable.

I will resist the temptation in the next number of minutes to get into a long string of jargon. If I might, I would like to put this in terms of some very basic goals, which anyone in the province following this debate might be able to relate to.

The basic philosophy of the MISA program is that industrial wastes should be treated at source. In the past we have had other types of controls placed, but unfortunately the past experience has been that industrial pollutants have been discharged either into municipal sewer systems or directly into our lakes, rivers and streams.

There has been some attempt to clean up. Certainly there is the expectation, or implied expectation, that our municipal sewage treatment plants would have a part in removing such chemical discharges before the waste water goes back into our province's water system. In terms of direct polluters, perhaps we had little or no expectations at all of what would be done to protect our people from increased water pollution because of industrial discharges.

The ministry's own figures, and indeed the best estimates of anyone working in this field, are that there are some 12,000 water polluters in Ontario in terms of industrial sources. Some 300 of those sources are what we call direct dischargers, discharging directly into the lakes, rivers and streams of our province and finding their way into the ecosystem. The vast majority of these sources of chemical discharge, however, some 11,700 or so, are not direct dischargers; they are discharging into the sewer systems, which are then expected in one form or another to either contain or treat the waste chemical.

The MISA program, which defines and recognizes these two types of polluters or dischargers, is really geared specifically to those 300 industries which are direct dischargers. It has very little to say and very little to offer in terms of the cleanup required for the vast majority of water polluters who are discharging into the sewer systems.

It is estimated that about 50 per cent of waste chemical pollution is originating from those 300 or so direct dischargers and that about 50 per cent of the pollution is originating from the other

sources, for the most part smaller but much more numerous, discharging into the sewer systems.

The MISA program philosophy, as I indicated earlier, is basically a good one and one that I am sure all of us in this House would support. The basic philosophy is to clean up these industrial pollutants at the source. In other words, the 300 direct dischargers are to be expected to control and regulate and as much as possible eliminate the discharge of industrial chemicals right there at their plants before they get into our province's water system.

The same philosophy should apply to that vast majority of industrial polluters who are discharging into the sewer systems, but here is where I believe the MISA program being implemented by the minister fails and fails badly. It fails inasmuch as the MISA program's philosophy would have us thinking that a municipal sewage treatment plant is a source of pollution and that the cleanup at the municipal level should be there. I am pleased to say my resolution parallels the initiative currently being taken by the Pollution Probe organization.

1010

Pollution Probe says it best, I believe, when it indicates that a municipal sewage treatment plant is not, of course, a source of water pollution. It is rather a mechanism put in place by society in an attempt to clean up pollution which is originating upstream from that plant. I believe that in order to be effective, the MISA program should recognize that in fact the 11,700-odd polluters who are putting waste chemicals into our sewer systems are the sources, just as much as the 300 or so direct dischargers are sources.

I would like to quote briefly from a document Pollution Probe has released in recent weeks, which very succinctly sums up the problem in terms of the industrial situation within the municipal systems. It is under the heading "No More Dilution," and it says:

"MISA makes clear that one of the main flaws in Ontario's existing pollution control program is that it allows polluters to dilute waste with cleaner water so that the same total amount is discharged in a more diluted form. MISA is supposed to begin capping the total load of pollutants to receiving waters."

I believe this is most important: "Sewage treatment systems are giant dilution mechanisms. The fastest way to lose track of an industrial effluent is to dump it in the sewer. Toxics discharged to sewers may be immeasurable at the sewage treatment plant or in its effluent; yet they are still being discharged. Once

in a system, they are indistinguishable from toxics from other dischargers.

"If the effluent were discharged directly,"—in other words, if it were being directly addressed by the regulations in the minister's program—"it would be unacceptable, but when dumped into a municipal sewer, along with everyone else's cleaner waste water, it flows to and out of the sewage treatment plant mixed in the large volume of other waste water and will be diluted enough to not violate water quality objectives."

There is the problem. These sewage treatment plants in all our municipalities are not sources of industrial pollution. They are but one attempt to treat such pollution and they are wholly inadequate to that job. The same philosophy that industrial pollutants be cleaned up at source must be applied to that vast majority of companies dumping into the municipal systems.

The MISA program speaks at length about the determination of the best available technology and the setting of standards for the regulation of these industrial effluents. While I guess we could go on at length about those standards, about their adequacy or lack of same, I will leave that for another debate. The point I am trying to make through this resolution is a very simple one indeed: simply take the standards and the philosophy that have been developed for MISA and apply them across the board.

When the minister puts before this House a program designed to lead to "the virtual elimination of industrial water pollution in our province," we have to ask ourselves: how can the minister follow through with that commitment when the program he has announced will cover only two and a half per cent of the industrial sources of water pollution? The minister's program does not speak to the vast majority. It does not speak to 97.5 per cent of the sources of industrial water pollution in our province.

I call upon the minister to amend the MISA program directly and as quickly as possible so that the standards which have been developed will apply to all sources of industrial water pollution in our province. I call upon the minister to recognize that it really makes no difference whether those waste chemicals are being dumped directly into our rivers, lakes and streams, or indeed whether they are being dumped into municipal sewer systems where, after a wholly inadequate and technologically basic treatment, those industrial effluents will find themselves, diluted perhaps, but once again in those same lakes, rivers and streams.

I take some encouragement from the response of the minister to a question in this House in recent days on this subject. I take it from the minister's answer to the question posed by my friend the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) that he is, in fact, sympathetic to this resolution. I take it from the minister's answer that he recognizes the very major flaw in his program. The recognition is not enough; we need action from this government. I would ask all members of the House to put some impetus behind this initiative by supporting the resolution, which I would hope, once passed unanimously, would then give the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) the clout in cabinet he needs to take this very major and positive step.

The Deputy Speaker: The member wishes to reserve seven minutes and 30 seconds.

Mrs. Grier: I am very pleased to have an opportunity to participate in this debate and to support the resolution that has been put forward by the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies).

I think it is perhaps worth noting that this is the first occasion upon which this House has had an opportunity to debate the MISA program. Anyone who reads the minister's speeches, as I am occasionally forced to do, or listens to his answers in the House, might be forgiven for thinking that somehow MISA was a fait accompli, because the minister has been quoting MISA as the answer to many of the problems of pollution all across this province ever since he first introduced it in 1986.

But, in fact, the MISA program is just that: a program or a scheme. It has as yet achieved no actual reductions in the levels of pollutants entering our waterways. It has a very long time frame before the regulations it contemplates will be put in place. In fact, the first regulation, the one that monitored industrial discharges in one sector, was expected to be available last month, and we have not yet seen it.

When the program was first announced by the minister in June 1986, I raised in this House the question of the 12,000 industries that were uncontrolled by MISA. I asked the minister to tell the House why he is not imposing stringent limits immediately on these 12,000 industries. The minister's reply was somewhat diluted, but the burden of it was that he was essentially leaving it to the municipalities to upgrade the sewage treatment plants.

I find reviewing that answer very interesting in the light of his answer to my question this week when I raised the issue again that there were 12,000 loopholes in the program, at which time

the minister replied, "...everyone would agree... that the sewage treatment plants...even with modifications and upgradings, would not deal as effectively with the discharges as if they were dealt with at source."

The minister has come some distance from the position he took when he first introduced the MISA program. But if, as he says, everyone would agree—and I know the members on this side of the House would agree—that it is more effective to control these discharges at source, it begs the question. What is the minister waiting for? Why does he not get on with it? Not only are the majority of industries uncontrolled by MISA as it now stands but also 50 per cent of the total discharge is uncontrolled, because it is now being indirectly discharged into the sewers of the system.

If the minister is changing his position and is coming to the point of contemplating pretreatment, then I find it passing strange that as recently as last November he put \$1.5 million into a study of the discharges from sewage treatment plants in connection with the MISA program. That indicates to me that the thrust, the impetus and the burden of his funding is going towards controlling the outflow from sewage treatment plants, not, as the member for Brantford has explained, what is required, which is to cut down on the inflow.

1020

The MISA program itself says that industries discharging into municipal sewer systems may be required to pretreat. That is a very weak commitment on the part of the minister. I hope, as a result of the resolution today, that we will see a much stronger commitment and some definitive action, because one of the other things the minister said in response to my question on Tuesday was that by raising the issue of the loopholes I was perpetuating the myth that the MISA program had flaws.

The only myth that is being perpetuated around this place is the myth that this government is striding boldly forward to protect the environment. In fact, when you look at the reality of the actions of this government, you see that the steps it is making towards protecting the environment are hesitant, faltering and slow, and that in every step it is being supported and pushed by the environmental community and by the opposition in this House. The reality of its performance does not match the rhetoric of its press releases.

Let me remind members of some examples of that. Countdown Acid Rain, a wonderful program introduced in December 1985, was lauded

across the continent as being a progressive step forward; but it had a major flaw. That major flaw, of course, was the provision of a banking provision for Ontario Hydro. It took months of pressure in this House, pressure from environmental groups and eventually a recommendation from a select committee before that major loophole was closed and the Countdown Acid Rain program could be given some reasonable credibility.

The soft drink container regulations proclaimed by this minister were supposed to set us on a new road to recycling and recovery of waste. What was the flaw in that program? The flaw was that as well as controlling some of the soft drink containers, it allowed the enormous polyethylene tetrathalate bottles, the big plastic containers, to be introduced into the market. Those containers are not reusable, are not recyclable and are in fact not being recovered. So that program too was not as good in reality as it was made out to be.

We have heard much from the minister about his increased enforcement and prosecutions for violations of the environment. I think my question yesterday showed that in the case of the Lucan landfill site outside London, the minister's officials had not even shown up in court when subpoenaed in a prosecution initiated by a citizen because the ministry had failed to initiate prosecution. This shows that the record of enforcement and prosecution is not as good as the minister would allow us to believe. One is tempted to think the same old gang is running the ministry.

Of course, in the MISA program the loophole of the 12,000 industries that discharge indirectly was not the only loophole. There was the whole question that provincially owned facilities were exempted from prosecution under the Ontario Water Resources Act. The minister was persuaded to close that loophole.

The point I am making is that so many of these programs are flawed that we find it very frustrating. It takes months of raising these flaws and pointing out the inadequacies of the programs before suddenly the minister says: "Yes, I agree with you. Let us do it right after all." How much simpler it would be, how much better it would be for the people of this province if when the programs were initiated they did what they purported to do in the first place; that is, to really cut back on the discharges into the waterways of this province and really force industry to begin to clean up its waste.

That is what we are asking for in this resolution. That is what I hope the government

will do as a result of the passage of this resolution. I say to the minister and to those who are going to read his prepared speeches in this debate that I think the people of this province are demanding of their government a far greater commitment to strong action and to immediate action than we have seen so far. The issue we are debating here today is just one example where I think it is time that strong action be taken now and delayed no longer.

Mr. Poirier: I rise to support the underlying principle of this resolution that pollution must be stopped at the source. I support its basic goal that all polluters must be controlled, that there can be no loopholes in any program to reduce the pollution of our waterways. I even support its unstated aim that both direct and indirect polluters be treated equally under any program or policy. No one can or should disagree with those points, but I have some very serious concerns about the wording of this resolution.

The resolution states that the MISA program "only covers companies dumping industrial effluent directly into the province's waterways." This is factually not true and I am sure the member knows it. What is true is that the vast majority of industries in Ontario are indirect dischargers located in municipalities and the practice of discharging into municipal sewer systems is quite widespread.

I remind the member that MISA stands for municipal-industrial strategy for abatement. The municipal sector is one of nine sectors—eight are industrial—covered by the program. The municipal sector includes 400 sewage treatment plants that collectively handle waste water from some 12,000 industries as well as domestic and commercial wastes. MISA is a regulatory program that will develop two different regulations for the municipal sector.

Initially, the municipalities will be subject to a monitoring regulation that will require them to identify and measure the toxics in their very own effluent. This self-monitoring program will be audited by the Ministry of the Environment. Municipalities will then be subject to an abatement regulation that will specify clearly what the allowable concentrations are, as well as total amounts of loading of toxin pollutants and which ones are acceptable. The specified levels will be based on the best available technology economically achievable at the time.

The municipal sector has entered the pre-regulation phase of this program. Regulations will be applied to municipal sewage treatment plants, or STPs, on a staged basis. Municipalities

will begin to come under the monitoring regulation in the beginning of 1988, with all municipalities covered by the end of that year. Municipalities will then be covered by the abatement regulation by the end of 1989.

It should be clear to all members that this resolution is absolutely redundant, but because we Liberals are a positive group of people, we regard it as at least one source of Conservative support for our efforts to better the environment and I salute the member for Brantford.

The MISA program does cover industries and municipalities, direct and indirect dischargers, as well as new and established sources of pollution. It is a new and comprehensive approach to controlling point-source water pollution. The real and meaningful issue that should be addressed in this resolution is whether the MISA program can effectively and efficiently control municipal pollution and therefore also the pollution arising from the indirect industrial dischargers. That would be a useful resolution to discuss.

Let me address that question, one also raised by Pollution Probe and addressed by the MISA program. At present, the municipal sector has insufficient data on the quantity of the hazardous contaminants discharged into the sewers and their removal in the treatment process. That fact alone speaks volumes for the inactivity of the previous governments of this province.

There are concerns that the STPs are unable to efficiently remove toxics present in the estimated 12,000 indirect industrial discharges in Ontario's sewer systems. Municipal sewage treatment plants are currently designed for biological wastes and not toxic wastes. There is also concern that sludge disposal could cause harmful effects to the environment.

Comments such as these were explicitly requested from the public by the Minister of the Environment when he announced the program in June 1986. We believe in open and responsive government and we have addressed those concerns; for example, the lack of information. A joint committee—the Ministry of the Environment, federal and the Municipal Engineers Association—is currently carrying out several projects aimed at gathering data to support the development of the municipal sector regulations of the MISA program. A province-wide survey of 40 representative sewage treatment plants is being carried out to identify and measure about 170 toxics in raw sewage and in the final effluent and sludge. The survey will cost an estimated \$1.6 million. MOE and Environment Canada are

developing a method to control the fluctuation of contaminant concentrations in STP effluents.

Another project is a monitoring program to measure the rate at which volatile trace organic contaminants are removed from the aeration basins during secondary sewage treatment at three to five STPs. The purpose of these studies is to get the information required as quickly as possible so the MISA program can be applied to the municipalities without delay.

1030

Another concern is the use of municipal sewers for industrial discharges. When the abatement regulations come into effect, the sewage treatment plants not complying with the effluent limits will be able to choose from the following: upgrade their sewage treatment plants; or require individual direct dischargers to pretreat their effluents or, better still, adopt process changes that eliminate the production of toxic wastes.

We believe most municipalities will comply by adopting a balanced approach tailored to their individual situations. Historically, the past sewer control strategy, based on a sewer-use bylaw developed by the former government, has been thoroughly ineffective. This government and this Minister of the Environment are committed to finding a better way, a better sewer-use-through-control program.

As a result, the MISA white paper last year clearly committed the MOE to developing more efficient sewer-use control options for the municipalities to adopt and committed the MOE to developing these in parallel with the effluent monitoring and limits development of the municipal sector. The options will be ready when the abatement regulations come into force in the municipal sector.

One of these options is the suggestion of Pollution Probe that on-site treatment before discharge into the sewers be required. The MISA advisory committee, on which a member of Pollution Probe sits, is reviewing the suggestions made by Pollution Probe on how to deal with indirect discharges. The committee's advice on this matter is expected to be tendered to the minister in the near future.

MISA will not tell the municipalities how to meet their abatement requirements—that is their choice—but it will ensure that a wide range of options based on best available technology is available for the municipalities to use and this will ensure that the municipalities will have all the necessary government resources available to

do the job. This will include all options suggested by Pollution Probe and others.

In conclusion, may I say that MISA is a vast improvement on the way we deal with pollution in Ontario. For the first time, we have a program that will solve the problem. I find it passing strange that the member for Brantford is now criticizing imaginary shortcomings in a program that his own party, when it had the power to do so only a short time ago, never had the stomach to adopt because it was too strong.

However late and however opportunistic Tory support for the environment may be, we are pleased to support this resolution not for what it says but rather for its underlying principles, goals and aims, principles the minister has acted upon, goals the minister has made attainable through MISA and aims this minister actively pursues through effective action, not empty rhetoric.

Mr. Partington: I am pleased to rise in support of the resolution of the member for Brantford, a resolution that clearly sets out the true picture of the MISA program, a program that is meant to control and will control direct dischargers into the river and lake systems of the province, but which, although it appears on the face of to be controlling indirect discharges into the sewer system, in fact will not do the job. If the government follows the intent and the thrust of this resolution, hopefully that weakness in the program will be covered.

Clearly, there is no issue more important in our society today than cleaning up our hazardous waste problems, particularly the persistent toxic substances that are appearing daily and are contaminating the tremendous natural water resources of this province. We see 800 chemical compounds in the Great Lakes system alone. Even in low concentrations, these toxics are posing risks to fish, plants and wildlife through persistent intrusions into our system. They go much further than that. The accumulated contaminants get passed on in our food chains. Over the long term, the cumulative adverse effects of these contaminants bode ill for our environment. They pose very serious problems, not only to our environment but more particularly to our way of life, and indeed to our very existence.

I noted that Charles Pryer, the president of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, in the summer issue of *Seasons* magazine, made the comment: "We discharge our wastes, pouring them down our sewers or directly into our rivers and lakes. We do not know exactly how these chemicals are affecting wildlife or humans, but it is imperative

that we come to grips with the problem before it is too late."

This concern is even further highlighted by two recent occurrences in the Niagara region. One is the contaminated mist that appears at the great, world-renowned Niagara Falls. Perhaps it is becoming world-renowned for the toxic contaminants it contains, some 60 tons a year. More recently, we have heard of the contamination of sediments in the sand bars at the mouth of the Niagara River, the sand of which is used for many purposes, including sand boxes that children play in. That is another issue of great concern to us.

The goal of the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement is defined as the virtual elimination of toxic contaminants from municipal and industrial discharges into waterways. That goal is consistent with the United States-Canada Great Lakes water quality agreement of 1978, wherein it is stated that Canada, and thus Ontario, is committed under that agreement to a goal of virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes ecosystem. The goals of the Canada-US agreement and the goals of the MISA program are the same, but if we are to achieve the elimination of persistent toxic substances, the MISA system must be changed and must be broadened along the lines of the resolution the member for Brantford has introduced.

MISA is a reasonable, well-intentioned first step but it really does not go far enough. The loopholes are there to be easily seen. The program covers only 400 companies over eight industrial sectors; 11,700 are left to channel waste through municipal sewage systems and eventually into provincial waterways. The indirect discharging into the sewer systems will continue to rise. Although the breakdown between direct and indirect discharges is approximately 50 per cent in each category, the indirect discharges into the sewer system will continue to create the greater threat to the environment. Of course, there are no standards that have been set for the 11,700 indirect dischargers.

There are only 400 treatment plants to service our municipal waste, that of 11,700 industries. The Minister of the Environment has admitted that it will take billions of dollars within the next few years to keep the degeneration of the sewer and water systems from developing into, as he puts it, a serious health threat. That is apart from the burden the MISA program, as it is currently suggested, will place on the municipalities. Of the cost estimate of \$1.5 billion just to revamp existing sewer systems for current needs, \$100

million alone is required in the Niagara region to stop the overflow of huge volumes of raw sewage into local waterways.

We have recently seen in Niagara and Fort Erie the effect that an overloaded, historic, degenerating sewer system can have on our environment. In that case, of course, there was an overflow directly into the Niagara River. At a time when we are trying to impress on our American friends the importance of their being committed, it is even more important that we be committed here.

As the member for Brantford pointed out, the MISA program as suggested by the minister will not properly deal with toxins that will be introduced into the sewer system. All that will have the effect of doing is diluting the pollutants as they enter the lake system, but the same volume of pollutants will enter our system with the same very deadly, very awesome, very terrible results.

1040

The other point is that the municipalities will have a difficult time dealing with this, with their shortage of funds and the shortage of standards and with the commitment they will have to make.

Actually, the MISA program as suggested by the Minister of the Environment reminds me quite a bit of the Countdown Acid Rain program. That was also a program dealing with acid rain. On the surface it looked like a tremendous plan, but in that plan Ontario Hydro had banking privileges which would have permitted it—probably commencing in 1993, because it will be under the limits until then—to exceed the standards then set by up to 500,000 tonnes, a tremendous gap in the plan.

After hearings, the select committee on the environment made a recommendation to the Minister of the Environment that the loophole be plugged and that the banking be deleted. The minister, after some consideration, agreed. He saw the light, if I might say, and did delete the banking provisions from the Countdown Acid Rain program.

I would similarly see here that we have MISA, on the surface a very broad, very well-intentioned program, but just like the banking provisions of the Countdown Acid Rain program there is a big hole here, a big weakness. That big weakness is the failure to have these 11,700 industrial polluters required to monitor and abate their pollutants at their source rather than through a municipal system.

Actually, it is interesting that this MISA plan was adapted from American jurisdictions that initiated the MISA program; but in the American

jurisdictions, as I understand it, they do not deal with these 11,700 polluters through the municipal system. Just as they do with the direct discharges in the rivers, they have in their program made the other 11,700, as in this case, deal with their pollutants at source.

I wonder why Ontario, as it adopted most of the MISA program from our American friends, did not stick with the American program of directly dealing with these 11,700 indirect polluters at the source of the pollution. I wonder why. I hope the minister will be able to provide us with that answer.

We must stop the pollution of our environment. We must meet the goals of the US-Canada water treaty agreement. We must adhere to the goals set out in MISA. In doing so, I hope the minister will follow the urging of the member for Brantford, take the resolution seriously and amend the MISA program in accordance with the urgings of Pollution Probe and in keeping with the way it was originally intended.

Mr. Charlton: I too rise in support of the resolution before us this morning. I congratulate the member for Brantford for bringing this forward. As my colleague the member for Lakeshore has said, this is our first opportunity in a whole year to discuss in this House the white paper on MISA the minister tabled last June.

I would like to start my comments by saying to the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Poirier) that although I very much enjoy his sincerity and the approach he generally takes to political issues here in the House, I do not like to see sincere people get fooled by the rhetoric of politics.

It is fair to say the former government did not deal with the problems the MISA program intended to deal with. By the same token, it is not fair to say the legitimate problems with the MISA program are myths. There are real problems with this program.

When it comes to the environment, the fact that this government is doing something a little bit better than its predecessor does not mean it is dealing adequately with the problem. As we know, with the environment everything has a threshold. If the government does not deal with beating the threshold level in terms of the downside, or staying under the threshold where damages result, then its program, even though it has reduced whatever is going into the environment—perhaps even substantially—means very little if it does not achieve that goal of breaking the threshold and getting those contaminants to acceptable levels and keeping them there. One of the major flaws with the MISA

program is that it has absolutely no way of ensuring that will happen, although it is a step in the right direction.

One of the major problems we found with both the former government and with the present government was that it did not provide leadership in the sense of determining what has to be done, taking that out and presenting it to the public, selling the package; having to overcome difficulties because some economic sectors will complain about the dollars and cents involved and, therefore, some people will complain about the jobs involved, and so on and so forth. We have to start seeing the absolute leadership of government.

What we are seeing in this province, what we saw with the former administration and what we are seeing with the present administration, are some small steps in the right direction and then the government having to be pulled along to the next step by public demand, by outcry, by groups such as Pollution Probe, which will go out and canvass door to door to sell an issue and raise a public profile for that issue, put public pressure on government to take the next step.

That is not the way this system should operate. There is nothing wrong with having public pressure in the system, but we should not be in a position of always having to take the next step only when public pressure reaches the point of forcing us to do that. We have to get to the stage in Ontario politics where we have the courage and the understanding to take the next step ourselves and go out and explain to the public why we have done it and why it was necessary.

One of the things that really bothers me about what is going on here is that on the one hand we had the minister getting up in the House last June and tabling the MISA report and then, as my colleague the member for Lakeshore has suggested, getting up more recently and saying: "You're right. Just regulating sewage treatment plants is not enough." He is now admitting that sooner or later we are going to have to get to that source control.

It is an evolution instead of an understanding of where we have to go, and it is an evolution that is led by a chain of pressure. You start to understand that when you understand that on the one hand the minister can say there are problems with dumping into our sewer systems and on the other hand the ministry is out there actively encouraging some industries, which now dump directly and which under MISA would be directly regulated, to stop dumping directly and to start dumping into the sewer systems, where

we are going to have some form of regulation at the sewage treatment plant but no direct regulation on the industry.

Is that the shortcut to our goals of getting below those danger thresholds or is that the long road? Ultimately, we know the government will be forced to go out and check the point sources that are dumping into sewer systems. We have a Ministry of the Environment that says: "We have a landfill site problem on Upper Ottawa Street in Hamilton. The regional municipality has to go in and monitor that site, and wherever it can collect leachate that is leaking out of that site." What does it tell the regional municipality to do with that very toxic mix of leachate that is coming out of what was, albeit a residential waste dump a dump site that is loaded with very toxic industrial waste? The leachate that is coming out is not the banana peels; it is that very toxic industrial waste. What does the ministry say they have to do with that toxic waste leachate they collect? "Dump it into the sanitary sewer system," which is totally inadequate to deal with those very toxic wastes. This is the ministry setting that down as a regulation, knowing full well it is not going to adequately deal with that waste.

1050

Then we get into the situation where the Ministry of Labour becomes involved, because all of a sudden somebody discovers we have got really high rates of sickness among sewage treatment plant workers. Now we are having to do health studies on those people to determine the extent of the effect that working in a sewage treatment plant, where toxics from industry are coming through all the time, is having on their health, the range of diseases being caused; and then attempt to determine how many of those people ultimately we are going to have to compensate because we have not protected them, because we have not thought through properly how we approach the whole question of the environment and control of toxic chemical wastes. It manifests itself in almost everything we get into talking about in terms of the environment.

There are a number of suggestions which Pollution Probe made in its release, which the member for Brantford referred to earlier, and these are ultimately necessary if we want the MISA program to work, to get us to those goals below the threshold levels where the chemicals are no longer presenting a danger to the environment and to human health. We have got to get into setting the same kinds of standards for the industries dumping along the sewer system as

we are setting for those direct dischargers, and that means the best available technology at source.

We have got to get into something other than self-regulation. Perhaps initially it is going to mean some combined form of self-regulation under strict criteria set by the ministry, where the ministry is monitoring at least the approach that the industry takes to that monitoring, but ultimately we have to get to the stage where this government can provide the absolute assurance to the people of this province that the regulations it sets are being met.

We have to arrange for the most effective mechanisms to make that work. One of the problems with MISA is that it is dumping responsibility down to the municipal level where they have neither the expertise nor the funding to adequately ensure that any regulations that are set will be met.

We have got to get into some serious discussions about money, about cost-sharing, about providing not only the authority to municipalities but also the means to the municipalities so they have the capability of enforcement. They do not have that now, and they will not unless the government, in addition to setting up the program is prepared to talk about the dollars that are required to make it work.

Mr. South: We support the member for Brantford's general thrust—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is the member for Brantford allowing the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. South) to use his time?

Mr. Gillies: I see there is a time problem, Mr. Speaker. If the honourable member could leave me even three minutes or so, that would be adequate for my purposes, if he would like to take the balance.

Mr. South: We support the member for Brantford's general thrust, the general basis. This is already enclosed in the MISA program. We must look on this program as a strategy, as a plan which is evolving. At this point it is not cast in stone. It is still evolving; it is still being developed. We are having public consultation, consultation with industry in making this one of the best abatement programs, certainly in Canada and in North America.

We feel that even with the concerns expressed by the member for Brantford, the approach to date has still been myopic; it is still preoccupied with sewer systems. At this point none of us—I suggest even the opposition—knows the answers to one of the basic problems; that is determining the percentages of these toxins and exotic

materials that are coming from various sources and are ending up in our waterways.

I suggest that sewers are only one of these sources. We have the wastes from our smokestacks. What amount of the problem is coming from there? We have leaking dumps and disposal areas. What percentage of the problem is coming from there? What the sewers are discharging into our waterways can be considered as only part of the problem.

The members have indicated the need for adequate funding and adequate staff. I would remind the opposition that when this member introduced a resolution with regard to an environmental improvement fund, the opposition opposed it. This fund was going to be based on charging everyone who discharges into our waterways a few cents per 1,000 gallons and using this money to adequately fund a program like this.

Funding is the very essence of all these programs, because when this government starts to introduce a program, whether it is in regard to problems with the industrial sector getting adequate inspection staff to see that safety standards are adhered to or something else, it is that party over there that is immediately harping and yapping about increases in the number of civil servants. They cannot have it both ways. That is real political opportunism at its worst. This program will require staffing.

I submit to opposition members again that if they were not such political opportunists and would be a little more positive, it would not be necessary for this government to seek a majority. We are going to the polls. We are going to get a majority. We are going to do unilaterally those things that have to be done in this province to clean up pollution. We will not have to sit and be beholden to a bunch of guys who do not have the vision or the foresight to play the big game and take the high roads.

Mr. Gillies: We have just experienced a prime example of air pollution, but the subject of this resolution is water pollution. If I had known the honourable member was going to be so gracious, I would never have given him the time.

If I may, I will very briefly recap several points and draw members' attention to several points. First, I thank all members who have spoken, including the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of the Environment, have indicated their support for the resolution, with various reservations that have been expressed. I can only hope that the support offered by the parliamentary assistant is indicative of the direction that his

minister will be moving in. Then we will know indeed that the passage of this resolution will have accomplished something.

Very briefly, I want to quote to the members something that Pollution Probe has said on the subject of sewage treatment plants. I could not say it more succinctly than Pollution Probe has done.

"The current MISA plan treats sewage treatment plants as sources of toxic water pollution. They are not. Sewage systems are gigantic conduits and collection systems which carry toxic pollutants from thousands of different sources to one giant outfall pipe at the sewage treatment plant. The sources are the companies upstream which dump toxic chemicals into the sewers. This is where the controls ought to be, if MISA is to be most effective."

That, very simply put, is the point. The philosophy of the MISA program is one we can all support: treat at source. The great failure with the government's program is that it treats a sewage treatment plant as a source, which it is not.

1100

Very quickly: in terms of health problems, as Labour critic for the opposition I recall raising the question of problems being experienced by sewage treatment plant workers at the Ashbridges Bay plant here in Toronto. The workers there were experiencing various kinds of health problems and discomfort. Work was stopped at that plant on several occasions, and it is very difficult at that end of the conduit, if you will at the sewage treatment plant, to determine what the chemical problems are that are causing these negative health effects. So it makes entirely good sense to eliminate the problem before then.

In conclusion, this government cannot foist a large part of the problem over to the municipalities. They do not have the money. We have talked about the hundreds of millions of dollars that are needed so that towns like Fort Erie are no longer dumping raw sewage into the lakes every time it rains. If we do not have the money and resources to bring those sewage treatment plants up to a very minimal standard, how can we expect those sewage treatment systems to treat very hard-to-detect chemical problems?

I thank honourable members for their support. I urge the minister to act on this resolution, once passed.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for debate on ballot item 12. It will be dealt with further at 12 of the clock.

Ballot item 13.

Mr. Runciman: I must say I am not thrilled by the number that my ballot ended up with. It may not augur well for the fate of it.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the member would move second reading.

REFERENDUM ACT

Mr. Runciman moved second reading of Bill 75, An Act to provide an Opportunity for the Electorate to express its views by means of Referenda in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member has up to 20 minutes, and if you wish to reserve any of that time to conclude to debate, that is up to you.

Mr. Runciman: I am not sure of the timing, so we will just see what happens.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on what can only be described as significant and far-reaching legislation, Bill 75, An Act to provide an Opportunity for the electorate to express its views by means of Referenda in Ontario.

At the outset, I want to stress that Bill 75 calls for nonbinding referenda. I will repeat that: nonbinding referenda. Based on my experience in the past few weeks, I am prepared to wager that I could mention the nonbinding provision a dozen times, yet any opposition that might be expressed here today will more aptly apply to binding referenda. I am resigned to that fact.

In Bill 75, I have opted for nonbinding referenda because the mechanics of binding referenda legislation are difficult, to say the least, and because there is a strong case for the purely consultative character of nonbinding referenda. The moral impact will be enough.

I am going to try a bit of a pre-emptive strike here and discuss briefly some of the predictable concerns that some honourable members may be expressing during this debate.

1. Referenda legislation could disable the Legislature from exerting its legal authority. This does not apply, as Bill 75 mandates only nonbinding, consultative referenda.

2. We will be subjected to frivolous referenda. Section 4 of Bill 75 reads: "A question shall not be placed on a ballot unless the petition contains the signatures of a number of electors equal to eight per cent of the electors who voted in the last election." Based on the turnout in the 1985 election, we would be looking at a requirement of approximately 300,000 signatures. I believe that requirement eliminates the concern about frivolous questions ending up on the ballot.

3. A general election is the only referendum required. If we believe that, ask ourselves how

much input voters have into the selection of candidates or into the choice of issues that divide parties at elections. It just does not hold water.

4. Referenda legislation will erode the influence and authority of ordinary members. That is a good one. How much influence do we as private members have; and as a result, and more important, how much do our constituents have through us? I suspect not as much as most people think. One of the reasons for that is rigid party discipline. To imagine that members of this Legislature are in some serious sense independent is to fly in the face of political reality. Bill 75 can help to turn this situation around.

Moving away from possible concerns, I would like to inform you, Mr. Speaker, and the House, that I have introduced this legislation because of a very real concern I raised some time ago in a speech at Queen's University; a concern that has not been allayed in the intervening years, and that is the growing menace of the missing vote.

It would appear that our political parties are turning off the electorate at an increasing rate. We are frustrating the undecided voter and making the hard-core voter less sure of his or her allegiance to any particular party. It has to do with credibility and voter trust of the politicians, as our parties in this assembly too often play eeny, meeny and me too.

Let us take a look at some of the no-show statistics. In the 1971 election, 27 per cent of the electorate did not bother to vote. In 1975, 33 per cent stayed at home; in 1977, 37 per cent. In the 1981 and 1985 elections, it levelled off at approximately 40 per cent. We are getting close to almost half of the electorate failing to exercise the franchise. That should be a disturbing bit of information for all members.

Those statistics do not provide much solace either for those who believe in majority rule. In 1981, a majority government was elected with a little over 25 per cent of the total eligible vote. The current government holds office with about 23 per cent of the eligible vote.

It is safe to say that many citizens do not feel they are getting fair representation from those they elect and are turned off by politics and by politicians and see no point in participating in the electoral process. I for one believe that far too much of their disillusionment is justified.

As a member of this Legislature, it does not take long to learn that one of the problems with representative democracy is that it is not always representative. Free votes are rare indeed. Newcomers to this House are in for a rude but early awakening. Earlier this year, in his first

term, the Liberal member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) very eloquently expressed his frustration when dealing with the question of party discipline. I quote from Hansard of January 22, 1987:

"Feelings of intimidation are not uncommon. That type of pressure does not belong in a democratic Legislature. All legislators are elected to represent constituents in this assembly. People doing what they are told are not involved in democratic government."

Another quote from that same speech: "Electors might be surprised to know how little their elected representatives feel free to represent their views."

No doubt all members can empathize to some degree with the comments of the member for Humber, but perhaps no one in the current House any more than me. Some members will recall that in my first term I disagreed with Mr. Davis's decision to acquire an interest in Suncor. I was opposed to the purchase, but I was even more opposed to a decision-making process which saw much of the cabinet and caucus, let alone this Legislature, bypassed and ignored, with virtually no consultation with the people's elected representatives prior to a decision that cost taxpayers in this province millions and millions of dollars.

Regrettably, my opposition to the Suncor purchase accomplished nothing: not for me, not for the beleaguered taxpayer and not for the decision-making process.

1110

Party discipline and whipped votes remain the reality around here. All too frequently, on controversial issues, we see all three parties singing from the same hymn-book. Separate school funding, Bill 8 and now Bill 154 are recent examples. On these issues and others, large segments of the electorate feel shut out. They feel that no one is speaking on their behalf.

Bill 75, an act to provide for nonbinding referenda, has the potential to lessen that sense of alienation from government which many Ontarians now profess. No doubt my friends to the left are fully aware that one of their gurus, Ralph Nader, is a strong advocate of public referenda. Nader believes, and I share his belief, that referenda can politically activate people who ordinarily would not be part of the political process.

Members of the New Democratic Party will no doubt also be interested in a pertinent quote from a publication, *The Citizens' Guide to the Ontario Legislature*, whose author and also a special contributor are not strangers to the NDP: Paul

McKay and a fellow by the name of Donald MacDonald. I quote from the publication:

"Certainly reclaiming public control of our government is a formidable task. It will require a virtual revolution in the way people think of politics and in the role citizens have traditionally played in the political process. It will also require wide-reaching structural reforms to ensure that we have a government which allows, and demands, real participation. Active citizenship is the greatest challenge and the most compelling obligation for Ontarians to meet in the future."

Donald MacDonald and friends convincingly call for real, active citizen participation in the political process. Ralph Nader contends that referenda will accomplish just that.

Based on the views expressed by Messrs. MacDonald, McKay and Nader, and based on the NDP's own history of attempting to have questions placed on municipal ballots, I am very optimistic that members of the third party will support Bill 75.

As for the temporary governing party, I hope there are enough populists and free thinkers over there to recognize the merits of this innovative initiative and, despite what their whip might advise, give Bill 75 their support. Time will tell.

In conclusion, I am not suggesting that nonbinding referenda will provide a cure-all for the deficiencies of the current system. However, consultative referenda can help in a significant way. It can make democracy more democratic. It can make representative democracy more representative. It can make people, by having responsibility given to them, become less apathetic and more responsible.

I urge the careful consideration of Bill 75 by all members of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Do you wish to reserve the eight minutes or any part thereof?

Mr. Runciman: Perhaps three minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Fine.

Mr. Breagh: Before I begin, I must say I have been solicited many times before in my life, but I always find it wise not to accept the kind of blandishments that have just been put forward to the NDP to support the bill.

I want to confess that when I initially read the bill, my first instinct was to say: "This is not a bad idea. What is wrong with a referendum? What is wrong with letting people voice, on a ballot, their opinion about something?"

What is wrong with the bill is the specifics of it. Members will know that I am a bit of a junkie on the political process. I have a tendency to study, talk and listen a great deal about how

political systems work and do not work. One of the things that has been brought really vividly to my attention is that in the United States, for example, where without question this concept would be very popular and is used a great deal, they have encountered some difficulties with it.

In Massachusetts, for example, any citizen of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a constitutional right to cause legislation to be brought forward. Of course, that ends up, usually every year in their state Legislature, as being 2,000 or 3,000 pieces of legislation that never go anywhere; but they do have a right to get it started.

In many of the states, of course, they have this type of concept worked into their political system where virtually any citizen can start a referendum or a proposition, the most famous of which is proposition 13 in California. Usually it starts with something that would fall right nicely into this mould, where one puts on a ballot paper a question to which one must be able to answer yes or no. Of course, that dictates that the question is put in very simple terms. "Are you in favour of a reduction in taxes?" Find me a citizen out there who is not. Find me a member in here who is not in favour of cutting taxes in some way.

The problem is that politics is not about yes-or-no questions. It is about decision-making. It is about defining the grey areas. It is about making the political choices. If one asks people on my street, "Do you want your taxes reduced?" they all say yes; but if one explains to them that means the taxpayer does not get the road paved in front of his house, we do not remove the snow in the winter or the garbage in the summer, then they might have a different answer. If one puts it in a context of a political choice, one gets a totally different answer to the question.

I think that is the problem that is involved here. It is not that there is a great fault in the principle. It is just that it runs against the parliamentary system. It fits nicely into a congressional system. It is not comfortable there and it poses immense problems. For example, in California, when we visited there last year, they are still feeling the ramifications of that very simple question, "Do you want your taxes reduced or not?" because that question carries with immense resonance among the population. Where it does not have the resonance is in the aftermath when the government starts to close the hospitals because it does not have the funding to run them. When it stops building roads and bridges collapse, people start to say: "But that is not what I meant. I just meant I am fed up with paying taxes."

If there was a crying need, for example, to elicit opinion from the general population, this would be a technique; but as one who regularly reads public opinion polls, as one who regularly mails to my constituents, who listens to them as I walk down the street in Oshawa; I sit in my constituency office and hear them there, I listen to them on the telephone; I have a whole lot of devices for telling me what people think in my constituency. I use them all and I do not need this one to embellish that process.

For example, in my latest little riding report I did a questionnaire to ask them about driver-owned auto insurance. I am amazed that only 90 per cent of the people who responded to that in Oshawa are in favour a driver-owned auto insurance plan. I do not know what is the matter with other 10 per cent, but it points out to me that I have a problem. Ten per cent of my constituency has its ideology in front of its common sense. I will have to go to work on them and explain to them what the problem is here. Why do they not understand that three of our 10 provinces do this and do this well and we could do it well here? I have lots of devices at my disposal to gather up information. I have all kinds of public opinion polls that are published and that are done by my party, newspapers and everybody else, to tell me this kind of information.

What is the wrong with the proposal here is really the specifics of it. The member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) is one whom I usually admire, despite what the mayor of Brockville says. He is one of the last people in here with that fervent 17th century ideology on his sleeve all the time. We know where he stands and I like that kind of political enemy. He is never confused with facts or anything like that. He has a straight opinion. Right there, one knows where he is coming from all the time. Did he really mean to say in this bill, as he did, that he wants this Attorney General (Mr. Scott)—this one—to decide whether or not something can legitimately be put on the ballot for a referendum? I do not think he did.

1120

Mr. Runciman: Subject to the courts.

Mr. Breagh: I would not, and of course he is enjoining with the interjection that, "Well, it is subject to the courts." He wants this to go off to the courts again. That is precisely what is happening in American politics these days. The courts are mired with people who make political decisions. You can intervene in front of a court and you get that whole process going. Is that really what he wants? I would remind him that according to the specifics of this bill, the

Attorney General makes the first decision and then the public is free, rich and poor alike, to hire a lawyer and go to court.

How will that work? Will people in my riding who are unhappy with the amount of money they get on social assistance programs be equally able to hire a lawyer and go to court, as would Imperial Oil, the tobacco companies or any other major corporations? In the eyes of the law, the rich and the poor have equal access to the courts; but in reality, do they? No, they do not. We all know that.

The basic problem he has put in front of us this morning is an American concept; and I am very much a pro-American member in my own party, probably one who would be criticized as being too positive towards the United States. I admire their political system, but it is not ours. We have a different system at work. I believe the parliamentary system is a better system. There are some things that the Americans do in their congressional system that I think are usable for us, are useful lessons to be learned, but this is not one of them. This is one that I would point out as a flaw in the American process of government.

It is theoretically nice to be able to say to the American people, "You have the constitutional right to do all these things; to cause a proposition 13 to be put on a ballot; to instigate legislation; in this instance to start a referendum." He is right. Ralph Nader would be a proponent of this, I suppose, because in the American political system this would fit very nicely. But I believe it is a flaw in that system.

In our parliamentary system, we elect political parties and politicians to listen to the population and to make the fine determinations of political choices. They are not easy all the time. They rarely come to the point where we can put a simple yes or no question in front of the Legislature. We often do that, but then we often spend days, in fact weeks, discussing all the niceties of what a no vote means and what a yes vote means. Most of us who have been in the Legislature for a while wish it was this simple, but it is not. It is almost deluding the public when we put questions on a referendum and say: "Give us a yes or no. Do you want us to build this road? Do you want us to build this arena? Do you want us to build this school?"

In American jurisdictions where this is prevalent—and this is done a lot through a variety of techniques in the United States—the problem really becomes simply this: people say, "We do not want to pay taxes and so we do not want to build a new school unless it is a new school that

my child goes to.” The problem is that each time the question is put we are talking about something which is not real, and so people say, “I want you to cut taxes;” but the schools do not get built, the roads do not get built, the hospitals do not get funded and the universities are under siege.

That is the problem with this particular bill. It offers in a sense almost a false promise, that people could vote on a referendum and they could actually resolve issues. They cannot. As much as I would like to support the bill, I cannot. I believe it is an American idea, which does not work in our system of government at all. I believe it would cause more problems than it would resolve; it would raise a good many false hopes; and it would serve no useful purpose. For those reasons, as much as I would like to help an endangered species this morning, I cannot support the bill.

Mr. Polsinelli: I have decided to speak to the private member’s bill put forward by the member for Leeds today because, although I believe his purpose and intentions are honourable in allowing for a more common use of referenda in mandating public opinion, I am not convinced that the mechanisms proposed by this bill represent a viable approach to determining the public opinion and will on general matters in our system of democracy.

In expressing my point today, I thought I might research the use of referenda in other jurisdictions, and what I found were some interesting facts I would like to share with this House.

The use of referenda for approving constitutional amendments has been extensive in other countries, in Australia, Denmark, Ireland and Switzerland. Even the United States, as pointed out by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh), in the case of amendments to state constitutions, provides for the use of referenda in determining constitutional amendments. However, the use of referenda for general issues of concern really has little precedence. Aside from the occasional examples of referenda used in determination of boundaries of a new state and those mentioned above for constitutional amendments, the only other significant use of the referendum has been in the decision to join or withdraw from a federation, and I am sure that every member of this assembly will recall that exact situation in a referendum in Quebec a number of years ago.

Notwithstanding this, some countries like Switzerland permit referenda on practically any subject as does the state of California. Members

may ask where else would this be allowed. But, in general, the practice in many countries has been to limit the possible subject of referenda questions to questions on the constitution, political institutions or political sovereignty. Historically, ancient Greece is often cited as an example of a state governed by direct democracy. Citizens actually proposed, discussed and voted on all issues of public concern.

However, our western democracies are governed by the principle, as mentioned by the member for Oshawa, of government by representation. We choose our representatives, who then develop policy based on the interests of their constituents, the interests of their province and the interests of their country. It is because we govern by the principle of government by representation that referendums in general on matters are unacceptable.

Referenda provide for a system of majority rule. On the contrary, government by representation provides for a system of government by consent. C. D. Sharpe in his book, *The Case against the Referendum*, states:

“Under a system of majority rule, the only right possessed by a minority is that of complete submission. A system of government by consent, on the other hand, recognizes the claim of any minority to be granted all such rights as do not seriously conflict with the rights of an equally important nature of the majority.”

Governments often reach a policy decision after having listened to both sides. Often the decision represents a compromise. A good example of this is that given by Richard Theoret in his article, “Experience with Referendums Elsewhere.” Theoret says that if you take the issue of smoking, one that most members of this assembly are familiar with, then the minority, the smokers, will be deprived of their pleasure if the majority decides against smoking. Government by consent, however, can provide for the accommodation of both, the result being that we have smoking bylaws which provide for both smoking and nonsmoking sections. Theoret points out that both solutions are democratic; however, the government-by-consent decision is better as it recognizes both the interests of the majority and minority groups.

Referendums also threaten responsible government. For example, what would happen if a measure adopted by the Legislature is then rejected by the people in a general referendum? Does the government have to resign or should it continue, given that referendums under this bill

are in effect nothing but nonbinding consultation?

Also referenda are potentially divisive mechanisms. Theoret cites the example of the 1942 plebiscite on conscription. Instead of giving the government a mandate, what, in fact, that referendum did was merely serve to divide the country even further on a very highly emotional issue.

It is also to be recognized that the question that is put to the people in a referendum, once it is decided, cannot be modified. An ordinary bill or even legislation can be altered or amended to deal with the various concerns once review begins.

What happens if the question put in a referendum is vague or contains an error which is not realized until after the question is put to the people? This bill and indeed referenda by their very nature have no way of dealing with this kind of problem.

Finally, it has been argued that referendum is a very expensive way to find out the opinion of the people. Often, it is clear from the start what side the majority will support and the potentially costly process proposed by this bill will more likely than not become a redundant exercise.

1130

I hate to get partisan and political in this, but as I recall in the previous Conservative administration, there was a saying that it used to govern by polls. That is not the way we want to do things in this government. We want to govern by consent and we want to govern by compromise. It seems to me that the position put forward from the Conservative member for Leeds is a natural extension of governing from polls because rather than taking a public opinion poll, its natural conclusion is to ask every citizen in this province what their opinion is in perhaps a very simplistic way, and then try to follow that decision.

I have come to the conclusion that regular use of referenda can sometimes do more harm than good. As a matter of fact, I believe that regular use of public opinion polls often does more harm than good. I believe there is evidence that in a modern, democratic society, consultation may be warranted at times, but regular use such as that proposed by this bill is costly, inefficient, redundant and I am sure harmful to our ability to govern effectively.

Mr. Cousens: I am pleased to rise and speak in favour of the bill proposed by the honourable member for Leeds, Bill 75, an act to provide an opportunity for the electorate to express its views by means of referenda in Ontario.

Having listened carefully to members opposite and in the third party to what they had to say about this bill, I realize that there is a sense of history that we have to realize, that we are proud of here in Ontario. We go back many, many years to the beginning and origins of democracy. We certainly have to be proud of the fact that there were people who stood up and could be counted and through a direct form of democracy and through their own way of dealing with issues in Athens, Greece, it was the beginning of a democratic government.

Many things have happened since those early days because, either through evolution or revolution, we have come to where we are now in Ontario, basing our parliamentary system very much on the British model. But we also know that this whole business of referenda is something that is important to the people of any kingdom and any jurisdiction because through referenda—as Webster defines it—it is “an initiative as to the procedure or device by which legislation may be introduced or enacted directly by the people.”

A referendum is defined as “the principle or practice of referring measures passed upon or proposed by a legislative body to the body of voters or electorate for approval or rejection.” There are a number of governments today that use this form of referendum. In Switzerland, it is almost the exclusive way in which government business is processed and it has referenda on whether there is going to be an addition to a hospital, a new road or on different financial matters.

There have been some very key referenda in the world front. In Spain, the Spaniards voted, through a referendum, to stay in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Denmark had a national referendum on whether it would block the European common market, and it decided not to.

For those who have said it is not a model that can be at all based on the British Commonwealth procedure and the British parliamentary procedure out of Westminster, there was a referendum in Britain in 1975 on whether it would enter the European common market. There was a second referendum in Britain in 1979, and that had to do with whether they would have the devolution of Scotland and Wales. So there is a precedent in the British parliamentary procedure for referenda.

We, in Canada, witnessed a very significant and important referendum that was announced by the Parti Québécois in 1976 as a method to resolve whether they would go for a sovereign

state. We watched that, we witnessed it and we were part of it as the rest of Canada looked on and saw Quebec going through this very difficult yet important procedure in which the people had a voice.

There are problems with our legislative process right now. As the member for Leeds referred in his own speech that more and more people in this province are feeling disfranchised. They feel they are shut out from the parliamentary process, from the decision-making process. They believe that when they elect someone they are there to do what they want. It is almost as it was in 1912, when Mr. Henders, who was president of the Manitoba Grain Growers Association, made this statement about referenda. I think it applies today.

He said: "The sovereign people have no direct efficient control. They are sovereign *de jure* but not *de facto*, except at election time. The actual powers experienced by the people consist chiefly in the periodic choice of another set of masters who make laws to suit themselves and enforce them until their term of office expires, regardless of the will of the people. We are governed by an elective aristocracy of wealth. Behind the government and Legislatures are the corporations and the trusts. Behind the political monopolists are the industrial monopolists, and the principal remedy is direct legislation."

He goes a little far, but he brings out the point that the people have somehow been disfranchised and do not feel a part of it. As the member for Leeds said, the statistics point to the fact that 37 per cent or 40 per cent of the people of Ontario—

Mr. Speaker: Were you referring to the member for Leeds?

Mr. Cousens: The member for Leeds, the same honourable, good man who presented this bill, Bob Runciman.

As one who has sat in this House for the last six years, I have come to realize, from my three different seats, as I sat as a back-bencher in the government, as I sat as a cabinet minister for a short time and I now sit in opposition, and in all three seats—

Mr. Andrewes: You sat in the Speaker's chair too.

Mr. Cousens: Yes, I sat in the Speaker's chair, that is right. That was the most uncomfortable.

The concern that I had was that there is more power in that chair than there is in any of the three that I am talking about. It has to do with the fact that how much does a back-bencher, either in opposition, or within the government, or even a

cabinet minister effect change and make change. We can affect it more than the general population, but I think our own voters and our own constituents sometimes bestow upon us the honour that they think we have more power than we really have.

We in this Legislature have tried to make some minor revisions to the House, but they have been so minor that they have not really come to the thrust of allowing people to speak out. We are in a position where more and more governments are using polls, but who knows how scientific and how accurate they are. There really has to be a better system to address the needs, to respond to the desire by the people of this province to be heard and to influence change.

The reasons against having a direct referenda, to me really boils down to the fact that some people do not trust the people to make a good decision, and that is poppycock. Some people think that ordinary people may be too stupid, ignorant or lazy, and I have not heard that said by any of the speakers this morning, but behind their words I sense that lack of trust in the general population.

Possibly the main reason for people in this House opposing, and I hear the other two parties opposing this motion, has to do with Howard Jarvis, the Californian who, in 1978, presented proposition 13, a bill that had something to do with property taxes, a bill that was opposed by both parties in the Legislature of the State of California. In the teeth of that opposition by the two parties in government, this referenda took place and forced government to change its thinking. Now I think that we in this province should be prepared to change our thinking by virtue of allowing the public to speak.

Referenda can pass a judgement and help laws to be more in tune with the thinking of the people. They can require the Legislature to create laws that more respond to the needs of the people; such referenda become an important thing in that they consult the people. People now are left out of that parliamentary process.

I believe that if this bill presented by the member for Leeds is passed it will allow the public to be more democratically involved. Representative government will become more representative. People will become less apathetic.

There are a number of instances in Canada where referenda have been used. There are two classic cases where, in Canada and the federal government in 1898, there was one general referendum on the prohibition of liquor. On April

27, 1942, another referendum was used by the government of Canada. It had to do with releasing the government from the 1940 promise of no conscription for overseas service.

1140

Newfoundland would not be part of this Confederation had it, with its parliamentary background, not come together. In 1948 it had a referendum on whether it would join Canada. That vote was taken and people voted against joining Canada, but on July 22, 1948, they decided to become part of this great Confederation.

The western provinces have used referenda a great deal. Seven were used in Alberta from 1915 to 1971. British Columbia has had two referenda. Manitoba has had seven of them. Nova Scotia has had two, one in 1920 and one in 1929, both dealing with liquor sales. Ontario has had two referenda, one in 1902 regarding the prohibition of liquor and another in 1919 regarding the Temperance Act. So have Prince Edward Island, Quebec as we just described and Saskatchewan.

We are at the crossroads of allowing democracy to move with the times. Let there be more evolution. Let there be more of an opportunity for the people who care about this province to speak out and have an effect on that change. Through this kind of bill, that change can take place.

Mr. Warner: I am afraid that for the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens), a referendum is not going to rescue his insecurity in this democratic system of ours. In a few moments, I want to talk about some of the problems both he and the member for Leeds have raised. They are indeed problems we should consider but I think they are better addressed in some other way than a referendum. In fact, knowing a little bit about the area the member for Leeds represents, I suggest that probably a good United Empire Loyalist would turn over in his grave at this latest American invasion. This is an invasion of an American idea as to how to run government.

Out of a little curiosity, I wonder whether the member who has put forward Bill 75 can tell me whether this bill is the result of a referendum he ran in his riding. Perhaps when he has a few moments at the end, he can tell us.

I think we need to separate the two major suggestions that have been put forward. One is the idea of a referendum, which of course runs somewhat counter to the notion of representative government and to the evolving of a party system, which we have in this country. In fact, some may argue we do not have enough political

parties. We have three major parties in Ontario. Across the country, of course, you can add Social Credit in British Columbia and the Parti Québécois in Quebec. Coast to coast we are looking basically at five parties and perhaps our political scene would be enhanced by the addition of other parties. Rather than watering down the party system as the member is suggesting, reducing the role of representative government and moving away from a British parliamentary system, perhaps we should look at ways of strengthening our system.

The member raises some very legitimate points about the role of MPPs and the concern that is expressed by many members around the whole area of party discipline and the whole area of how members can participate and to what extent they can participate in debates. Just as a candid observation, it is no secret that when the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan), who is a member of the government party, gets up in this House to ask a question in question period, a lot of people start hooting and hollering. Quite frankly, that is inappropriate. The member has every right to ask a question. Whether the question is sensible is something else, but he has every right as a private member to get up and ask questions. People should not make fun of that.

To a large extent, I think the system in Britain is more mature than what we have here. I recall quite vividly that one time when I was visiting Britain, I listened to a heated debate on the radio between two members of Parliament who were diametrically opposed on an issue. At the end of the debate, I learned that both MPs were from the same party; both happened to be Conservative MPs. They were engaged in a public debate on radio, taking opposite positions on an issue. I think that is very healthy. It is something that seems to scare a lot of members in Ontario. I doubt that we have ever really had a debate between two members of the same party in a public way. It is always done behind closed doors. Maybe that speaks a bit to our insecurity as members.

We have a party system and it is a good system. We could find ways of strengthening it, but party discipline is important. The public wants to know what a party thinks about an issue. It wants to know whether a party is prepared to make a commitment on an issue and to stand by it, or when the issue is put to a test, whether certain members do not have the courage to follow through. Party discipline is important but we have to have party discipline and at the same time find a balance that allows members to speak

their own minds, particularly on the really serious issues that are matters of conscience; I suggest around the issue of abortion or of capital punishment. These are issues on which members have to have the opportunity to speak their minds.

If the member for Leeds is seriously concerned about strengthening our system so the public has greater access, then perhaps he should turn his attention to how we can have greater access for the public to our committees and to the legislative process. One of the things that needs to be considered is the opportunity for committees to formulate legislation. Maybe our committees should have that opportunity and should do so by way of public hearings, so that committees of this assembly could deliberate over the formulation of legislation and during that process take their little travelling road show to various communities around the province.

Perhaps there should be some way for private individuals to propose legislation that would be debated. I am not suggesting we should have it as wide open as they do in Massachusetts, which my good colleague the member for Oshawa has mentioned. In fact, I believe they have a total of 10,000 bills per year that must be processed because if a citizen walks in off the street with a proposal, there is an obligation to deal with the bill from start to finish. I am not suggesting it be that wide open, but perhaps there should be some avenue whereby citizens would have an opportunity to propose legislation to their legislators and have it dealt with in a serious way.

The member for Oshawa is right. If members were to be totally candid, we have at our disposal a lot of ways of finding out how our constituents feel about issues, whether it is through newsletters, questionnaires that are sent out regularly or through riding office hours or the telephone. I remind members—perhaps they do not need reminding—that in Ontario we have one of the most accessible Legislatures that exists anywhere. Members are accessible. If they are not accessible to their constituents, it is the members' fault; it is not the constituents' fault.

In summary, the idea of moving away from a representative form of government and moving to a populist, referendum form of running government bothers me. I find it very unsettling. Quite frankly, I find it a bit scary because it means that very simple yes-or-no questions, run on a populist front, can rule the day. Instead of deliberate, thoughtful discussion with an opportunity to bring forward all the nuances, all the details and deal with all the complexities of

whatever suggestions are put forward, that goes by the board and that bothers me.

1150

I would like to see our system enhanced so that members of the general public have a greater opportunity to bring forward their suggestions, but I think we are well served by a party system and by a representative system. I am opposed to the bill and yet I appreciate the sincerity with which it is brought forward, and of course, the risk that the member for Leeds is running by this American invasion, being from a territory that is well known for its United Empire Loyalist roots.

Mr. Offer: It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to partake in debate this morning, especially with respect to resolution 13. I have had the opportunity to listen to some of the comments made today with respect to the use of referenda or plebiscites in the province. When one first reads the bill, it does not sound too bad. It seems another way the people of the province would have of voicing their opinions with respect to certain matters, through plebiscites or referenda. But when one looks not only to the bill but rather takes into consideration the impact of such a device, I think there are some concerns that ought to be raised and determined.

We as legislators have been elected to represent the people in our ridings. We have been entrusted by them to act on the questions and issues of the day. We have that obligation. I believe the use of referenda would, not only in the long run but also in the short run, very much erode the trust the electors put in us or give to us during elections. They rely on us. They rely on us to meet their needs and to be there, not in any partisan manner when we are talking about our constituencies but in a manner that is sensitive, reflective and compassionate to their needs; to be accessible at all times. If we are not, we of course are accountable to those people who have exercised their votes.

We have at our disposal a number of ways in which we can better get in touch with our constituents on any issue. We have the use of newsletters, for instance—"householders" as they are called—with which we can not only inform our constituents of some of the issues of importance but also elicit from them, if they want, their opinions with respect to those same matters, or if we wish, any other matters they may wish to use.

We have better-equipped constituency offices than ever before. We have more funds available. All the members have more funds available to them to run more efficient, more adaptable

constituency offices for the purpose for which they were created: constituents; for constituents to call, to write letters to, to voice their concerns to their member and to elicit from their member his or her opinion, his or her position on the issues of the day.

We have our own creativity in going from community to community. There are public meetings, called to hear from those people what is of concern to them and to us, and why we want to hear them. We have all these items at our disposal to be used as we want, to be used to create a greater representative capacity for the people we ought to represent, our constituents. I see this as a way of eroding that, a way of almost absolving the members of that responsibility by saying to the constituents, "This will be part of a referendum." I think this could cause a lot of harm.

In the history of this province, there has been a time and a place for referenda, but we are not a plebiscitary type of democracy. We never have been and I suggest never will be.

In deciding whether one ought to or ought not to support this bill, we have to ask what our responsibility is to our electors. I believe the responsibility that we as elected officials have to our constituents is to be accessible at all times, to provide to them the forum for them to come to us or for us to go to them, to hear their comments and concerns. That is a personal relationship between the member and his or her constituents. I think the constituents very much judge the member on how he has attempted to provide these public forums, how he has attempted to elicit responses on a myriad of issues.

I am speaking against this bill. I believe we are not a plebiscitary democracy. I believe this runs counter to protecting, maintaining and safeguarding the interests of minority groups across this province and as such I vote to oppose Bill 75.

Mr. Runciman: At the outset of my comments, I mentioned I was prepared to wager that I could mention the nonbinding provision of this legislation a dozen times and that the opposition that might be expressed here today would more aptly apply to binding referenda. Obviously, I would have won that wager because that is precisely what has happened.

One of the gentlemen across the floor was talking about cost, that the cost would be assumed by the petitioners, when we are talking about it taking place only at a general election.

Much of the argument and the views of the member for Oshawa can only be described as inane. I am not going to comment on them at

length but there are a number of points. He described himself as the most pro-American individual in his caucus. I think that is like describing Caspar Weinberger as the most pro-Russian in the Reagan cabinet. The reality is that many people on the left are well aware that a referendum is likely to reflect the conservative instincts of the community at large and they are very fearful. As in most New Democratic Party positions, there is a strong element of hypocrisy. The people running around this province urging municipalities to place questions concerning nuclear-free zones on their ballots were members of that party. I guess referenda are okay if the NDP can shape the questions; otherwise, forget it.

I think all of us in this House know that large segments of the electorate feel shut out and feel that no one is speaking on their behalf. My bill, Bill 75, has the potential to lessen that sense of alienation from government which many Ontarians now profess.

The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere was talking about representative democracy. Bill 75 has the potential to make democracy more democratic, it can make representative democracy more representative and it can make people, by having responsibility given to them, become less apathetic and more responsible. I urge that members not vote in party blocs. Let us show some independence and free thought here. They should ignore their party whips for a change and support Bill 75.

The Deputy Speaker: We should probably wait the 12 seconds remaining and then officially at 12 o'clock we can start the vote.

Interjections.

1200

The Deputy Speaker: It being 12 o'clock, we will deal first with Mr. Gillies's resolution. If any members are opposed to a vote on this resolution, will they please rise?

Mr. Breaugh: Don't you think he should be here before you deal with it?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. No members having risen, Mr. Gillies has moved resolution 17—

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Is it in order to take the vote on this resolution in the absence of the member who sponsored it?

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, it is.

**MUNICIPAL-INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY
FOR ABATEMENT**

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Gillies has moved resolution 17.

Motion agreed to.

1208

REFERENDUM ACT

The House divided on Mr. Runciman's motion for second reading of Bill 75, An Act to provide an Opportunity for the Electorate to express its views by means of Referenda in Ontario, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Barlow, Cousens, Dean, Eves, Harris, Henderson, Jackson, Lane, McCague,

McLean, Partington, Pope, Rowe, Runciman, Turner.

Nays

Breaugh, Bryden, Caplan, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Fontaine, Fulton, Gigantes, Gillies, Grande, Grier, Haggerty, Hart, Hayes, Knight, Laughren, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Mancini, McClellan, Newman, O'Connor, Offer, Philip, Poirier, Polsinelli, Smith, E. J., Warner, Wildman.

Ayes 16; nays 31.

The House recessed at 12:11 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join with me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery a parliamentary delegation from India, led by the Honourable B. Shandaranand, Minister of Water Resources. Other members of the delegation are the Honourable Dr. Durai, MP, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha; Anil Basu, MP; Singh Deo, MP; Mr. Manhar, MP; and Mr. Vajpayee, MP. Also accompanying the delegation is Paul McCrosan, MP for York-Scarborough. Please join me in welcoming them.

I would also like to inform the House that we have another guest who has not travelled quite as far. I would ask all members to join me in recognizing and welcoming the Minister of Agriculture from Prince Edward Island, the Honourable Tim Carroll.

BASEBALL GAME

Mr. Harris: I think it is appropriate on days following big occasions that somebody reports the results of the big baseball game last night. I am wondering whether I could briefly do that.

Mr. Speaker: It sounds like a member's statement to me, but it is not that.

Mr. Harris: No. Not having heard an objection to my unanimous consent, I am going to barge ahead here.

In my previous six years in this Legislature, we have annually had a meeting of the press gallery with our caucus and, as always in those previous six years, the press gallery has come out on top. As well, we have daily gatherings with the press gallery and they consistently come out on top of those as well.

However, last night there was a trend perhaps developing as part of our comeback. For the first time in six years, the Conservative caucus defeated the press gallery in the great ball game of the year. I would like to report that the star of the game was the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), who redeemed himself for some fielding problems when he drove in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth.

As members know, the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) was on the disabled list last year. I want to report that this year the member

for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) is on the disabled list, as members will notice.

We send our very best to Stan Oziewicz, who was involved in the play of the game, the run of the game that tied the score, that forced us into that dramatic ninth inning. As a result, he is now on the long-term, permanent disabled list with a badly broken wrist, and we send our very best to Stan.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mr. Stevenson: I stand today to announce the strong support of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Pures, farmers must look for all possible ways to consolidate their position. In western Canada, farmers are finding ways to get feed grains covered under the Western Grain Stabilization Act. In addition, farmers in the west are being paid \$13 a metric tonne for feed grains fed in the west. The western programs are having a profound effect on the Ontario feedlot industry. Their long-term effect could be devastating, particularly in western Ontario.

Inclusion of feed grain under the stabilization program in Ontario would at least help counteract the current unfair situation. If this program is not approved provincially and federally, we will see some arrangements being made among farmers which will not be in the best interests of agriculture in Ontario, but will allow them to qualify in some way or other for existing programs.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Laughren: A week ago today, the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay), the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, stated while in North Bay that Highway 11 would be four-laned to North Bay and Highway 69 would be four-laned to Sudbury. When he was talking in North Bay he indicated that money would be committed to restart the planning for the four-laning of both Highway 11 north from Huntsville and Highway 69 north from Waubauskene to Sudbury. It was estimated it would take at least 10 years and \$150 million to complete the four-laning of the Huntsville-to-Callander route and \$480 million for the Waubauskene-Sudbury project.

The problem is that when I came down here this week and asked the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Peterson) about this project, he indicated he knew nothing about it. The Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) seems to know about the same amount about the project.

What we would like to know on this side of the House, and have been trying to get some answers about, is whether the government is intending to launch a massive planning project for these two highways or whether it intends to announce a project to four-lane the highways. At this point we do not know whether the government intends to simply do some long-range planning or whether it intends to build some highways, and we are not getting any answers from the government ministers.

1340

Mr. Cousens: I would like to raise the issue of highways and problems with highways as well. It has to do with the reconstruction of major thoroughfares.

We all know there is work being done on Highway 401 and the Gardiner Expressway, but this morning I saw the way this government is accelerating the refurbishing and repair of the Don Valley Parkway. As I was travelling southbound—of course, the parkway is narrowed down from three lanes to two—I could see 12 people around the site; three people were working and the other nine were walking around, a ratio of four to one.

Is it any wonder we had a traffic backup that went halfway up the parkway? This government says it is an accelerated job. Here is a highway that is a major thoroughfare in and out of Metropolitan Toronto and there is just nothing happening on it. It is narrowed down to two lanes and there are three people working on it.

I cannot believe the minister is taking that little interest in the communications problems, the driving problems and the travelling problems of the people around Metropolitan Toronto who want to come in here for some crazy reason such as to make a dollar or to run a business. What is this minister doing to help them? He has three people working on the Don Valley Parkway; meanwhile, it is closed down. The number of man-days that were lost this morning by people sitting in their cars is more than we should tolerate. I am getting sick and tired of it.

FIRESTONE CANADA INC.

Mr. Mackenzie: There is a very real concern among Firestone workers in Hamilton over the

future of their plant. Rumours of shifts of production to the United States, cutbacks and even the plant's closure are causing concern.

Firestone workers have lived with these recurring rumours of the plant's demise for years. The heavy federal investment in this plant, \$15,250,000 million of taxpayers' money in 1983, as well as the acknowledged efforts of the workers themselves to improve and increase production, was intended to protect the future of the plant and the workers.

Some of us, myself included, raised concerns over the deal that was negotiated because we bought a bias-ply operation when the move was to steel-belted radials. We were also concerned about the job guarantees.

There are 1,300 jobs involved in this plant, and this Liberal government must decide now whether the Goodyear pattern is to repeat or whether it has the guts once and for all to do something to protect these workers.

With the advance warning we have, what is the Peterson government prepared to do in terms of the 1,300 Firestone workers in the city of Hamilton? Is it prepared to protect these workers' jobs?

PORTUGAL DAY

Mr. Callahan: It gives me great pleasure to rise in my place and to relate to the House the evening I had in my riding yesterday. It was Portugal Day in Brampton. It was sponsored by the Voice of Portugal, a paper that serves the Portuguese community to a great extent. It is also very supportive of measures by the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes) and such things as Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch.

The event itself was focusing on Portugal Day. The music that was provided was excellent. The turnout was excellent. I commend the people who put it together as a recognition of the very strong and very vibrant Portuguese-Canadian community that I have in Brampton.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. McLean: I have a statement for the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) regarding the expansion of a hospital in my riding. As he is aware, I wrote him a letter on May 20 regarding his plans for the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. It is now June 11 and I am still awaiting a reply.

The Simcoe District Health Council has completed its health needs and services study and submitted a list of recommendations to his ministry. Since that time there has been much

discussion and speculation regarding the future of the hospital, or if there is to be a future at all for this health care facility.

A phase two addition to the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital was initially approved in 1985, but since that time, discussions have centred on the possibility of funding an entirely new facility because there is no room for expansion on the existing site in Orillia.

I believe the time has come to instruct the hospital's board of directors to proceed with the new facility or at the very least to get the new addition under way if this government does not want to put health care at risk in Simcoe county.

The time for an announcement regarding the ministry funding or a new or expanded hospital in Orillia is long overdue. The hospital's board of directors and administration are ready, willing and able to launch a major fund-raising campaign to cover part of the anticipated costs of construction, but direction is needed from the Minister of Health before anything can proceed.

The time is now for the minister to approve this facility in the Orillia area for the necessary treatment for the people there. I urge him to proceed immediately.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Breagh: The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) was in Oshawa recently. He was beckoned by the chamber of commerce. Unfortunately, when he got there, he was a little grumpy that day; he must have been asleep in the back of the limo on the way out because he missed all the big government signs announcing the GO Transit extension. He must also have missed all the millions of dollars that have gone through the government's coffers for consultants, appraisals, engineering reports and options on properties because, when he was there and questioned by reporters, he did not seem to know anything about it.

Oshawa This Week, the newspaper, always sensitive to the needs of our community, knows for sure there is that need. They were appalled at the ignorance of the Treasurer, who seemed to know nothing of all the petitions and questions and statements and speeches that have been made in here.

They are good communicators and they are going to help the Treasurer overcome his ignorance. They are going to collect a petition informing the Treasurer and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) that there is a need for GO Transit to Oshawa which will allow the government to use all the land it has optioned in that area and to make use of all the engineering studies it has

done and all the busy little things the Ministry of Transportation and Communications has been doing all these years.

I would like to be the first to present the Treasurer, since he forgot, with this petition. Just in the interest of better communications in the cabinet, I will give any member of the cabinet a copy of this petition as well.

Mr. Speaker: There are 18 seconds left. The member for Essex South.

Mr. Mancini: I do not believe I have enough time to make this statement.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: Before the members across the way embarrass themselves, I want to take this opportunity—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I waited a few seconds, and we went past the allotted time. I am sorry; the time for members' statements has expired.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the House for consent to offer congratulations to my colleague the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman) and to acknowledge his 28th anniversary in the House.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

Mr. Harris: It is too bad you are so stupid, the way you went about it; a perfectly marvellous and wonderful occasion.

Mr. Mancini: As I said earlier, I would hope no one would embarrass himself.

MEMBER'S ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Mancini: It is very important today for me, as a member from the Windsor-Essex county area, to bring to the attention of the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) and to other members of this assembly a very special occasion, the 28th anniversary of the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman).

Over the last 28 years, my colleague has faithfully served his constituents and has been faithfully returned by his constituents to this august assembly. I know all my colleagues would wish to join with me and honour my colleague the member for Windsor-Walkerville, and let him know how much we have appreciated the work he has done in this assembly.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ONE-STOP ACCESS

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: It gives me great pleasure to outline to the House today a significant advancement in the delivery and

accessibility of community-based health and social services for senior citizens.

Members will recall that one year ago this month the government released its white paper entitled *A New Agenda*. Much of the thoughtful advice we received from seniors during the consultation process on the white paper had a consistent theme, namely, the pressing need to simplify and improve access to community services and to provide a more comprehensive approach to service delivery. In short, we were challenged to replace fragmentation with co-ordination, and in so doing, to strengthen the government's commitment to enable seniors to remain in their own homes and to reduce the prospect of unnecessary institutionalization.

As a result of further consultation this spring in 24 Ontario communities, I wish to announce today that the government is introducing a community-based program known as one-stop access. It is a fact of life that many seniors who now seek out community services must do so on their own. This can be difficult, time-consuming and frustrating for seniors and their families. Too often, the result is that their needs are neither properly assessed nor fully met.

1350

This problem is due to two factors: community services are not sufficiently developed, and delivery is often fragmented and inadequately co-ordinated. However, this government is now moving to address both of these issues. We are continuing to expand and improve community services and care alternatives. We also intend to address the problem of fragmentation and co-ordination by providing a comprehensive approach to community services through one-stop access.

One-stop access will offer appropriate functional assessment and will take responsibility for bringing community health and social services to senior citizens in their own homes. To put it another way, one-stop access will do the legwork in obtaining services on behalf of seniors. Further, responsibility for planning, development and delivery of these community services will be vested with a designated local authority such as regional government or expanded boards of health.

Our intention is to introduce one-stop access in two phases. In this fiscal year, pilot projects will be established in the regional municipality of Waterloo, in Huron county and the district of Cochrane. In the next fiscal year, pilot projects will be introduced in the borough of East York in Metropolitan Toronto, and in the counties of

Prescott-Russell and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

To facilitate this second phase, I am announcing today on behalf of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) that the integrated homemaker program will be introduced into East York and the counties of Prescott-Russell, and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry this year. I understand that the Minister of Community and Social Services, in keeping with the throne speech, will be announcing additional integrated homemaker sites in due course.

While one-stop access primarily will serve the needs of seniors, it will also benefit other population groups, such as disabled persons, who are now eligible for home care and the integrated homemaker program.

Before proceeding with one-stop access, we consulted widely and listened to the comments we received. We were told constantly that local needs vary across the province and it was not feasible to take a cookie-cutter approach to this new development. Accordingly, each pilot community will be invited to develop its own plan for one-stop access within the context of provincial criteria. Consumers and service providers will be involved in the local planning process.

This government recognizes that the development of a one-stop system requires new expenditures and that there will be a need to improve and expand community services in these communities. Consequently, our intention is to provide enrichment funding to meet these needs. At this time, we estimate the initial cost of the five pilots will be more than \$5 million in new money. It is also our intention to evaluate these five pilots.

This initiative will be undertaken in close co-operation with and with the assistance of my colleagues the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Ruprecht). It is yet another first for Ontario and a major step forward in the delivery of quality community service to Ontario's seniors.

RESPONSES

ONE-STOP ACCESS

Mr. Cousens: There is nothing bold today except that the Liberal colours are waving over this announcement. There are six ridings mentioned in this brief: Huron county, held by the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston), Cochrane, held by the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine)—

[Applause]

Mr. Cousens: Keep clapping. The province of Ontario will not be clapping.

—Waterloo, held by the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp), the riding held by the member for York East (Ms. Hart), the riding held by the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Poirier) and the riding held by the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve).

Five of the six ridings get Liberal money. Five of six ridings are receiving this Liberal money. Did members hear me? Five out of the six places are getting this Liberal funding.

What is the minister trying to do? What happens to the seniors across the rest of the province? What is the minister really trying to do? I cannot believe he would say this is bold, except that he is feeding his own riding associations. He is feeding only some Liberals, only some people, only those who happen to live in Liberal ridings.

I have never seen such a blatant statement. It is going right into the coffers of their own voters in their own areas. What about the people who are seniors in other parts of the province? There is not one New Democratic Party riding mentioned in the announcement—and the New Democrats are his friends, up until June 25. They are his friends and he does not even have an NDP riding in it. Why does he not? No wonder they are becoming unhappy with him; we always were.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member for York South (Mr. Rae) is smiling.

Mr. Cousens: Come on. It is nothing to laugh at. The seniors of this province want to be treated fairly. They want one-stop access. They want to be cared for, but they do not want to have this kind of political thinking brought to bear on a very major social problem. It is a flagrant disgrace. There is no excuse for it.

I say that for the minister to come along and list only six—and he is starting off—when he could be doing 16, and five of the six are Liberal ridings, is a disgrace of the first order. I do not know who put him up to it, because he is too good a man to do this kind of thing. Everybody around the province likes him, but they are not going to like this. They are not going to like that kind of approach to it.

Who is the Liberal in there who is forcing this kind of thinking on the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne)?

Mr. Gillies: Bob Nixon.

Mr. Pope: Bob Nixon.

Mr. Cousens: The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) is doing it to him.

We cannot afford this kind of political grandstanding, flim-flammy, doing it for only one party. What happens to all the rest of the province? I would like to know. I want to do something for my riding. I want to see something happen in my neighbour's riding. I would like to see something happen in the riding of the member for York North (Mr. Sorbara), but he is a Liberal, so that would mean six out of six.

Let us see what we can do to help all the people of this province. The seniors are looking for leadership. If they are going to see leadership that only looks after Liberal ridings—is that what the minister is saying? Does he only look after Liberal ridings?

I could go for 20 minutes on this subject. This is a party that is leading this province to a misconception of what it is really capable of doing. It is not understanding the people of this province. Our seniors are the most important people we have in this province. They have built the province and made it what it is today. Here we have a chance to give something back to them and the government is giving it back only to Liberal ridings, except for one little Conservative riding, and it does not even come into effect till the second year. It is going to do it for one Conservative riding in the second year.

This is the best reason I have ever seen for the Liberals to lose the election. At last they have shown their colours and they have shown why the Conservatives—who would at least include a couple of NDP ridings and a few of the Liberal ridings; there would be a mixture—would never be as blatantly obvious about something that is as devious—

Interjections.

Mr. Cousens: Worse than that.

As a group, we will do it to serve seniors and to be fair to all seniors. To come along with that blatant, obvious move that the government has now taken of serving only itself is something that should cause it to think again or maybe even resign.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member has filled in his five minutes.

1400

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Very briefly, I might start by saying there is only one thing worse that I can think of for a minister responsible for senior citizens' affairs than we currently have, and that is the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens). That display, in which he did not even talk about

the issue of community supports for senior citizens in this province, demonstrates why, after 42 years of government, the only solution for seniors when they became frail was to go into privately run, poorly run nursing homes in Ontario.

I would like to make just a couple of points about this government's lack of progress. We welcome today's announcement. Six pilot projects is very, very small—very, very modest; but none the less we accept the fact and we congratulate the minister for moving on this, finally.

I particularly want to congratulate the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner), who brought this matter to the Legislature a couple of years ago with a private member's bill and really got the communities talking about the need for one-stop shopping, which then forced the government of the day to act.

But we will never make adequate progress on developing and emphasizing community support programs until we put the dollars into the system and properly pay the employees who are in the system on the same kind of scale we pay the institutional employees.

As long as we continue to take the approach of "If you are in the community, we do not care as much, we do not pay as much, we have staff turnover, we pay at minimum wage," then the reality of the situation is we are going to continue to have a system that is dominated by the institutions. We need to increase vastly the community-based services, not just on pilot projects but so that the one-stop-shopping approach actually has something to refer people to so that there are services to access.

We also need to look at the whole area of property taxes, because right now one of the problems seniors are having is that they just cannot afford even to stay in their homes because property taxes in this province have been escalating to such a high level.

We congratulate the minister. We expect more and we expect it more quickly, and we hope that some time in the very near future there will be a recognition by the ministers responsible that home-support programs have to be funded at the same levels as institutional programs.

Finally, once again, I want to congratulate the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere for initiating this.

Mr. Warner: I wish to respond to this announcement. Quite frankly, I am really shocked by the lack of action by this government. It is

astounding. These are not new problems; the solutions have been known for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, you are probably aware that one member, with the assistance of one researcher, was able within less than a year, drawing on the experience of 26 different countries, to draw up a plan that could be implemented and should have been implemented by now. But after an additional year, this government, with hundreds and hundreds of civil servants at its disposal, comes up with five pilot projects. Big deal.

The reaction of this government can be likened to the blazing speed of a runaway glacier. All I can say to the minister is I am disappointed that, after two years in office, the best the government has to offer is five pilot projects.

An hon. member: Six.

Mr. Warner: Six pilot projects. That is not good enough by a long shot. All I can do is to continue badgering and pressuring this government to stop stalling on my bill and to start implementing the things which are in my bill. I will certainly offer the bill once again. I will offer my bill to the government. It can take it, put its stamp on it and make it law, and start providing the services to our seniors.

Mr. Speaker: Would the honourable member take his seat. That completes the allotted time for ministerial statements and responses.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I wonder if you would look into the appropriateness of this piece of government literature being put out by the minister; whether a personal, political profile and backgrounder on the minister is an appropriate use of government money.

Mr. Speaker: I believe that was a question to the Speaker by the member for Nipissing. I am not aware of any rules within the confines or the precincts here that would allow me to ascertain whether that is the responsibility of the minister. I would like to suggest the member might ask the minister during question period.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Pope: In view of the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, the same minister who, when it comes to the Firestone workers in Hamilton, the Goodyear workers in Toronto, the petrochemical workers in Lambton and the wood workers and bush workers of northern and eastern Ontario, has presided over the deindustrialization of our province.

Yesterday in the Legislature and as reported in the Toronto media this morning, the minister indicated a list of industries in which jobs would be lost as a result of trade legislation and trade negotiations currently under way. He gave a specific list to the member for Eglinton (Mr. McFadden) in response to his question. We and the people of this province are entitled to get specific information from him as our Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. What industries are we talking about? How many jobs would be lost? What regions of the province are we talking about?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The list I mentioned yesterday was from a federal report that was leaked and I believe was published in the Toronto Star some weeks ago. It listed a number of industries that they said they thought would be affected and some that would be helped. I can just tell the member that we continue as a government to represent Ontario in speaking with the federal government to find out what industries will be affected and what industries will be helped. We will continue to work with the federal government as best we can to determine whether free trade is good for this province.

Mr. Pope: That is absolute nonsense. This is the same minister who, along with the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), secretly sold out the forest products industry of this province. Not less than a year ago, he sold them out and now he expects us to believe his statements about monitoring.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Pope: We are entitled to know, and I repeat the question: What workers, how many workers, what companies and what regions of the province are going to be affected? We want specifics now. We and the people of this province are entitled to them.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I know the member keeps bringing up this lumber issue, and it is a very important issue, but I remind him that it was his cousins in Ottawa who sold out the province, not us.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Minister of Natural Resources and the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) are wasting the time of the House.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I can tell the member, as I just did, that we continue to meet not only with officials in Ottawa but also with all the different groups throughout Ontario—different businesses, professions and just general groups—to find out their intentions as to whether they feel free trade

would be harmful to them. These studies are continuing. They are being done by the federal and provincial governments and those groups that are involved. This information is all being fed to the federal government and we are expressing our concerns in each of these individual cases.

Mr. Pope: This is the same government that, in writing, last September 26 secretly agreed to an eight to 10 per cent tariff on wood, on softwood products, knowing it would cost 500 to 1,000 jobs. They secretly agreed to it. They refused to tell the people of this assembly and Ontario what they were up to. Jobs were lost.

Interjection.

Mr. Pope: Yes, the minister is telling Ottawa. How about telling the rest of us in this assembly and the people of Ontario? How about telling the workers of this province whether their jobs are in jeopardy, whether their companies are in jeopardy, whether their communities and regions are in jeopardy? We insist: How many jobs are at stake in each of these industries? What companies and what regions are going to be affected? We are entitled to know. He is our minister. Now he should answer those questions.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: In regard to the member's question, we are continuing to investigate all these matters. We are continuing to look at all these different areas. We are feeding this information to Ottawa. We have shared some of this information with the people who are here and we will continue to represent and protect the people of this province and the jobs here also.

1410

LENNOX GENERATING STATION

Mr. Andrewes: My question is to the Minister of Energy and concerns his statement yesterday regarding the reopening of the Lennox generating plant. Could the minister tell the House specifically what options he considered for supplying electrical energy in Ontario, other than the reopening of the Lennox generating plant?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am sorry the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor) is not here today, because he brought a delegation down from the Kingston area to put pressure on me, as Minister of Energy, and on Ontario Hydro to reopen Lennox. The member should get his act together over there, because we cannot satisfy him and that member as well.

There was heavy pressure, and the member for Prince Edward-Lennox is very pleased that we are seeing fit to open Lennox to provide the jobs

and the opportunities around there and to get a balance on that grid with the extra 1,000 megawatts of power where there will be low voltage and difficulties if we do not take that initiative. I am quite surprised he has not shared that with the member.

Mr. Andrewes: We are to assume from that response, I guess, that no other options were considered.

I want to refer the minister to a press release from Ontario Hydro of October 30, 1986, entitled "Ontario Hydro and Hydro-Québec Reach Power Deal." The final paragraph reads:

"This agreement with Hydro-Québec is cost-effective and is a more practical option than the other plan we considered, restarting the oil-fired Lennox generating station, west of Kingston," Campbell says."

Campbell is the chairman of Ontario Hydro, Tom Campbell. I think the minister is familiar with that gentleman.

The statement the minister made yesterday mentioned several reasons why he was restarting the Lennox plant.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure you are getting to a question.

Mr. Andrewes: By way of supplementary, what specific reasons did the minister have for overriding Mr. Campbell's views of seven months ago and choosing an option that is possibly more expensive and certainly more environmentally detrimental?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: This is the same honourable member who said this government has no control over Ontario Hydro. He had better make up his mind. Do I have some influence over Mr. Campbell or do I not? The fact of the matter is that the member cannot have it both ways.

One has to make some important decisions as to what this government has seen fit to do. The other options are already under way. I explained as recently as yesterday that we opened three new hydraulic plants in northern Ontario—that is an option that was not considered a good one not long ago—and a cogeneration plant in Chapleau that is going to burn wood waste to generate electricity. We are looking at the options of efficiency and other options of generating power.

The member has only seen the start of what this government is going to do over the next 20 years to provide the kind of power for Ontarians to keep the manufacturing base sound and jobs flowing, as that member is describing as a problem. We are going to do everything we can to provide the jobs in this province, and I am going to help to do that.

Mr. Andrewes: Out of all that baloney, I have learned that the Minister of Energy chose an electrical generating option that is more expensive and environmentally harmful. That is the control the Minister of Energy is exercising over Ontario Hydro.

By way of supplementary, I wonder if the minister might consider another option, and that is the option of restarting the mothballed R. L. Hearn generating plant, where 1,200 megawatts of generating capacity can be fired by environmentally benign natural gas, which could be obtained under arrangements approved by his Ontario Energy Board at a good deal, a fair price, resulting in reduced sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions, jobs in Ontario and security of supply. Why did he not consider that option?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We have considered all options and the comment that the member is making that there are going to be more emissions is absolutely not true. It has to be understood that Ontario Hydro has to live under the direction that has been put on it by the Minister of Energy, which it is going to do; it is going to meet the commitments. The member should remember that we are talking about a peaking plant that is liable to operate 25 to 30 days during the course of the season.

The member really does not understand the problem and that is why it is difficult for him ever to come up with any kind of answers—as we are, on this side—to provide a continuous supply of power to the residents and the manufacturing base of this province.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Health. My question to the minister concerns the discrepancy between the treatment offered to patients with money and patients without money in the province.

I would like to ask the minister if he is aware of the practice at a place called the Park Plaza Surgical Centre—which is apparently a privately operated facility for people with eye problems and needs for eye surgery—where patients of Dr. Harold Stein, who is the chief of ophthalmology at the Scarborough General Hospital, are given a surgery option sheet which I have just shown and handed to the minister?

This surgery option sheet gives the patients of Dr. Stein three options. They can either have their surgery done at the Park Plaza Hotel at \$700 an eye—in the case of the patient who brought this to our attention, it would have cost him \$1,400 in three or four weeks—or they are told there will be

a waiting list of between three to four months for healthy patients and six to seven months for people who are inpatients. In fact, others have been told it will be even longer.

I wonder if the minister can tell us, is he aware of this practice and what does he intend to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am aware of the situation because a third party with whom the leader of the third party—I am not sure whether it is—had been speaking, who then spoke with me, gave me a copy of this yesterday, saying the New Democratic Party had alerted him, as a member of the media, that it intended to raise this as a question. Yesterday he shared a copy of this particular item with me.

Mr. Wildman: Toronto Star.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fact, it was not the Toronto Star, but it was a member of the media.

As a result of that, I can tell the honourable member that I am aware of this particular form. It is a copy exactly of what I received yesterday. I have made some preliminary inquiries, but I have not yet received any further feedback, with the exception that I do understand there are a sizeable number of operations which are performed at this location, a location which is a private facility, as the member has rightly identified.

Further than that, I am unable to provide the member with more specifics on this particular clinic.

Mr. Rae: Perhaps it is appropriate on this day, which is not only the anniversary of Bill 94 but also the day of the election in Britain, to look at the practice of Harley Street medicine in the United Kingdom and at the Thatcherization of health care in that country, where those with money are able to purchase a qualitatively different kind of health care from people who have to rely on the public service.

This seems to be a classic case of Thatcherized health care right here in Canada where those with money in their pockets, those who are willing to pay, are told that they will get care far faster and far speedier than they would under the public system in which this doctor also practises. I would like to ask the minister, is he not concerned about this practice, and what does he intend to do to stop it?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I had indicated to the honourable member that I was made aware of this by the third party—actually, by two third parties now—an intermediary between the third party and me yesterday, and now by the leader of the third

party today. I have made some preliminary inquiries with respect to this particular matter. I can tell the member that one of the things we have discussed as ministers of health across Canada is the question of the operation of private clinics and the impact that it has with respect to the Canada Health Act and the objects of that particular piece of legislation. It is something we have not as a group been able to fully come to a conclusion about, but is something that is of ongoing discussion in the national scene as well as of concern here in the province.

I think the honourable gentleman rightly raises the question of the opportunity for conflict between the roles of someone practising at public hospitals and also operating a private facility. I can tell him I have not been able to come to a conclusion at this stage with respect to the manner in which a resolution might occur to what appears, at least on its face, to be a conflict.

1420

Mr. Rae: The minister says that he is aware not only of this particular example but also of other examples across the province and that it is a sufficiently severe problem that it is something he has discussed with other ministers of health.

Given that the minister now is telling us he is fully aware of the extent of the problem and is aware of the fact that patients are being asked to pay upfront money in order to get quicker health care, just as we have learned over time that patients with more money can get into chronic care facilities more quickly than patients without money, what does the minister intend to do to introduce some equity and fairness into this situation and to make sure we do not have a province where the quality and speed of care depend on one's willingness to pay?

Surely we do not want to enter into a kind of Thatcherized world in this province where those patients with money in their pockets are going to get better and different care from patients who cannot afford to pay anything.

Hon. Mr. Elston: As is the honourable gentleman's habit, he has certainly not been quite clear with the public when he expresses what I had just in reply indicated to him. I indicated there was a concern expressed across the country about the increase in privately operated clinics. The honourable gentleman tries to do something more with that factual statement than is appropriate, but I guess that is the way he is.

I can tell him that the operation of private clinics is a matter of discussion. It is a matter of concern with respect to what the impact and effect are on the operation of public hospitals in

this province and in other areas. To be quite honest, I think it shows that it seems these issues are far more easily and quickly raised with me via these third-party messengers than they are in the Legislative Assembly.

For instance, I think perhaps they would like to make a suggestion. If they have all the clever answers, perhaps they could provide them. I am always open to suggestions and perhaps the member will do that in his next round of questions.

Mr. Rae: The Minister of Health is about to give smarminess a bad name, but I will leave it at that.

NATURAL GAS PRICING

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Energy about a field of energy in which he is an acknowledged expert. I am speaking, of course, of natural gas.

I wonder if the minister could explain why Ontario residential consumers are now paying as much as \$6.10 per 1,000 cubic feet of gas when we now know that the province of Alberta, in terms of its sales to the United States, is selling that same gas south of the border and to some other places for as little as \$1.80 for the same amount.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Of course, the first thing the honourable member is attempting to do is to compare apples and oranges. He is talking about wholesale prices—

Mr. McClellan: It's gas. You know all about gas.

Mr. Breaugh: Try to stay with us.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: If the members will wait just a minute, I will explain. He is talking about wholesale prices on the one hand and retail prices on the other to make the span as wide as he can, which is a ridiculous comparison to start with. We will deal with something else afterwards.

Ontario played a vital role in deregulation when we agreed we would make it quite convenient for direct purchase from the industry in Ontario to enter into contracts with producing provinces in western Canada. That has been done and they have entered into excellent agreements to protect the feedstock in many important industries in this province.

The Ontario Energy Board has directed the distributors in Ontario to go back and renegotiate the prices for residential and small commercial users, who are considered the core consumers in Ontario. We are also fighting the problem we have with the streaming of prices from the

producing provinces. Those are being taken into account by Mr. Masse. We have written to Mr. Masse and Mr. Webber. Of course, the initiative that is taken by Manitoba is an excellent one. We here in Ontario are doing everything that can be done to protect the consumers in this province.

Mr. Rae: I am surprised the minister would be so defensive.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am not defensive at all. I am just telling you the facts.

Mr. Rae: I am just saying that I am surprised he would be so defensive when his own deputy minister, Duncan Allan, whose abilities are well known in this House, said he estimated that a Toronto home owner can pay up to \$5.80. I have a bill here that shows they are paying \$6.10 now, while a factory on the next block can buy the same gas for as little as \$3.05 or even \$2.60 on the spot market.

I was asking the same kind of question, and I am surprised the minister would take such offence at that question since his own very loyal and effective deputy minister, who is well known, has said exactly the same trend is taking place.

What is the minister doing and what is the government of Ontario doing to ensure that the average residential home owner and user in the province—the people of the province, not the big people who can pool their utilities and not even the school boards that can pool their resources—what is he doing for the little people of this province to make sure deregulation starts meaning something to them and not just to the big guys he is so keen on helping?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The honourable leader of the third party of course waxes eloquent when he wants to put words on the record. That is fair; that is what this forum is all about. I am here to protect the consumers in Ontario, the manufacturing base and the residential consumers. I have said many times that we are not going to have a reduction for large industry in Ontario on the backs of the residential consumers.

The fact of the matter is that the distributors have been directed to renegotiate the contracts with western Canada. It was not Ontario that decided to deregulate the gas industry; it was the federal government and the producing provinces.

The member must recall that he stood in that very place and quarrelled with my request to sit at the bargaining table. He thought I was being quite unfair. That is the result of this. Ontario was not a party to those agreements and now we have to do what we can to protect the residential

users of this province of ours. I want to tell him that it is being done.

Mr. Rae: I wonder whether the minister can perhaps tell us this: If it is being done, if he is such a tiger on behalf of the Ontario consumer and if he is being so effective, can he explain why the recipient of this gas bill dated June 1, 1987, whom I know very well, living at 54 Langmuir Crescent—

Hon. Mr. Nixon: What is the address?

Mr. Rae: It is me. It is my bill. Why is this bill showing a cost of \$6.10 per 1,000 cubic feet? We know what Manitoba is able to do in terms of acting on behalf of its consumers. If the minister is such a tiger and if it is good enough for Manitoba in terms of acting on behalf of its consumers, why is he not acting on behalf of the consumers of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It is obvious the member refuses to accept the fact that we are taking the initiative on this issue. The fact is that we were not a party to the deregulation that took place in the producing provinces under the aegis of the federal government.

What we are telling him is that the federal government has a role to play when gas leaves the producing province. It has seen fit to let it go to the United States cheaper than it goes to other parts of Canada. We are there to defend the situation to the degree that we can so that it does not happen. The member is paying that kind of bill on his home, but I want to tell him that if he were farther down the pipe he would be paying \$7.82 at the end of the pipe.

That is a reaction that is happening across here, and we are having the people who distribute gas in the province go back to the producing provinces to renegotiate contracts they were stuck with when the federal government and the producers deregulated the gas market. That is not something Ontario did or had anything to do with. I am explaining to members precisely how it happened without being an apologist for anyone.

1430

UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. During the last election campaign, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) made a commitment to university accessibility. This morning the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations held a press conference at which they made it abundantly clear the minister's new funding formula is

resulting in a record number of academically qualified students being turned away from Ontario's universities.

Why has the minister adopted a policy that does not provide a place in our university system for all academically qualified students?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am glad my friend from Parry Sound asked that question. His problem was that he was at the wrong news conference; he was at the news conference of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, where they were saying the government was not going to use its accessibility envelope to provide the places so that students who are qualified to go to university in September can go to university.

Mr. Warner: You are wrong.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) shouts and shouts and shouts.

At the very same time or at about the same time, I was making an announcement that the government intends to fund at the full average cost the increase in the university system that the university system will experience as of September 1987. My friend was just in the wrong place.

Mr. Eves: It was at the same news conference, the minister may be interested to know, that Dr. Starkey made the following remarks about his accessibility fund:

"So much smoke and mirrors. In the last budget, and indeed in a series of funding announcements since the Liberals came to power, they have made a mockery of those commitments. By putting a cap on funding, the effect was indeed to put a cap on enrolment. We have an increase of seven per cent of qualified applicants and a cap of three per cent. Four per cent of students will not gain admission this year."

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Eves: As far as the minister's accessibility fund is concerned, the \$25 million, which represents 1.7 per cent of total grants that will not even be effective until 1988-89—

Mr. Speaker: The question.

Mr. Eves: How is that going to address an increase of seven per cent in student enrolment?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend refers again to the faculty association's press conference. They are just playing politics. Dr. Starkey, chairman of the association, as well—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: How is this for playing politics? OCUFA has decided on an advocacy campaign to tell the people of Ontario how disastrous it is going to be in September 1987. Where are they advertising? In the ethnic press. Good idea. Which community are they starting with? The Italian-language community. How very interesting.

The truth is that we are taking every step necessary to ensure there are places. We are providing the funding. Not only that, for the first time in years and years and years, we are providing the dollars necessary to build the buildings the students are going to use to study their courses.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: It would be helpful if you would allow the member for Hamilton West to ask his question.

Mr. Allen: I wonder who is playing politics with this question. The situation is somewhat serious and my Tory friends have alleged that no, it is not.

Mr. Speaker: The question is to which minister?

Mr. Allen: Sorry, the question is to the minister who was just on his feet, the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

I wonder who is playing politics with this question. The minister knows that he has instituted a formula which does not just cap enrolments; it also rewards universities if they go as far as three per cent below existing enrolments. If one adds that three per cent to the seven per cent applications now, one has a 10-percentage-point question, and one is not talking about 2,000 students but about 5,000 students whose places are at risk.

I ask the minister whether it is not because of his genuine concern about the application of that formula and the fact that the universities may have taken it seriously that he has not only written a not-so-friendly letter to the presidents of the universities but also, 10 days ago, had breakfast with them and pleaded with them not to give him a political hot potato on the accessibility issue this fall.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not going to say my friend has misrepresented the facts; he has just got them wrong. There are two alternatives here. Either he simply does not understand the new funding formula or else he is pretending, with his question, that he does not understand it.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Mr. Speaker, they obviously do not want to hear the answer, but I am going to try anyway.

There are five separate components to the funding formula. One of them, the basic operating component, provides a corridor. The second component provides an accessibility envelope.

Two and a half months ago, before I met with the presidents, I was advised that we may have an increase in applications. I sought the advice of the Ontario Council on University Affairs, an independent advisory body, as to how to deal with an increase in enrolment through the accessibility fund. The council reported back to me with its advice. We accepted that advice with one exception. We said it did not go far enough, we had to do more, and we included graduate students, so we would be sure as well that no graduate students would be denied admission because of a lack of funds.

Mr. Allen: If the minister wants to brag about his contradictory formula, that is up to him. On the one hand he has a formula which rewards the universities for reducing accessibility, and then in his own office he is going to turn around and tell them they have to add on so much because he is going to give them more money to add on places they do not think they need or want. It is a totally contradictory situation. That is the spot the minister is in right now. He knows very well that there are accessibility problems out there.

If the minister wants to have the accessibility issue in his office, let me ask him this question: When and how much is he going to use in the course of this year and next year to help not only those students we have talked about get into the university system but also the Italian, Greek, French-Canadian and Portuguese students and the low-income students in this population, who have approximately half the level of accessibility as the average population?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I have a great deal of respect for my friend from Hamilton, but I will tell him it is only a simple mind that would see it as a contradictory formula.

The member has read my letter to the chairman of the Ontario Council on University Affairs on this matter. He knows that the corridor approach is to dampen that kind of destructive competition among universities that would have them make grabs for students from other institutions. He knows full well that is the purpose of the corridor approach. He also knows that it is consistent to have an accessibility envelope when the system,

in its entirety, is going to expand, and that is what will happen in September 1987.

The member says: "We have solved that problem. What about all the other people who are not going to get in?" He should know, because I have told him on a number of occasions, that this very year we increased funding for the Ontario student assistance program by some 17 per cent. That has never been done before in this province, and I am proud that we were able to do it for those very students he has mentioned.

1440

Mr. Pope: The fact of the matter is that the Liberals are denying access to students in this province. That is the fact.

Mr. Speaker: I recognized the member to ask a new question. To which minister?

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Pope: In view of the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), my question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, the minister who sold out the forest products workers in northern and eastern Ontario, who sold out the petrochemical workers in Lambton, who sold out the Goodyear Tire workers in Toronto and is in the process of doing the same to the Firestone workers in Hamilton.

I want to ask him what he means by his own quote, which he made in this House on June 4, and it is only one sentence. Specifically what is he doing? He said, "We are also working closely with labour and the federal government to make sure certain things are put into practice that will enable us not to have that overcapacity." He was referring to the automotive industry.

Can the minister tell me what things he is doing to protect against overcapacity—

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: As the member has quoted, I believe I mentioned we were working very closely with the federal government, with labour and with the industry to see that this overcapacity was not realized.

As the Premier mentioned the other day, basically there are three things we have been talking about with the federal government. The first is to resume the monitoring and controlling of vehicle imports into this country. The second is to obtain a commitment from foreign producers established in Canada to meet the protection and value-added safeguards in the auto pact. The third is a commitment from government, industry and labour to improve the technological

capability and efficiency of Canada's auto industry.

Mr. Pope: It is obvious that the minister is reading something he does not understand. He does not understand what he is talking about. Just to help the minister out—

Mr. Speaker: By way of supplementary I hope.

Mr. Pope: —imports into Ontario are down \$464.5 million in April 1987. Exports from Ontario into foreign markets are down \$218.2 million. Fifteen American congressman just approached Peter Murphy to try to cut back on Canadian and Ontario production of automotive parts. He has already failed on his third point.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Pope: He has already failed with Magna, delaying the construction of the Pickering plant, with 300 job opportunities lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Pope: When is he going to do something in the face of these delays now in construction of new plants and the creation of new jobs in this province? When is he going to do something to help the auto workers who are facing tough times? They are already upon us and he has done nothing. What is he doing?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: When this member stands up and rambles off the way he does, I just do not know. He has not really thought out his question. As I have stated before, never before has this province seen such job creation. Never has it seen as low an unemployment rate as it has. This government has done more than the previous government did in all of its years in creating jobs in this province. Never have things been better and the member knows it too.

Mr. Gillies: Like at Firestone, with the laid-off workers?

Mr. Ferraro: Things have never been better and you know it. You are embarrassed by it.

Mr. Pope: I am embarrassed by you guys. A lot of workers lose their jobs because of you. You don't know what you are talking about.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Cochrane South has asked his question.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Grande: In view of the absence of the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) and the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I would like to ask a question of the Treasurer. I sent the Treasurer three pieces of information: one entitled The Eglinton Terrace Inc. and two letters

from tenants living in 1969 Eglinton Avenue West. The Treasurer will notice the letter asks tenants, under rental terms and conditions, to pay approximately \$2,560 of key money even before they enter the apartment.

I will read him a quote, which says, "The person applying shall submit with the application a cheque in the amount of not less than the amount enough to cover the first and last month's rent"—which is \$480 plus \$480—"and the cost of decoration, which is \$600 for painting, and \$1,000 security deposit for carpet installation."

Mr Speaker: The question?

Mr. Grande: The Treasurer knows this is illegal. Will he ask the Minister of Housing to investigate this situation immediately? There are a lot of tenants who are suffering.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I acknowledge and thank the honourable member for sending the material over. Yes, I will bring it to the attention of the Minister of Housing and he will report in the House as soon as he is able.

Mr. Grande: I thank the Treasurer. At the same time as he does that, will he also say to the Minister of Housing that, because of the increases that are going on with this particular concern of key money, he should increase the staff resources he has within the ministry. There is only one inspector in the whole branch to do this kind of work.

Next, would the minister begin to do the educational work that he committed himself to do when Bill 51 was passed over six months ago, so that tenants are knowledgeable of their rights and obligations under the law?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I will refer the member's concerns to the minister.

CHILD CARE

Mr. Callahan: I want to direct a question to the Minister of Community and Social Services. I have had commentaries from operators in the for-profit sector of day care in my community, as well as from parents. They are quite pleased with the minister's statement about funding for resource centres but they are concerned about the question of the timing of funding to the not-for-profit sector in relation to that of the for-profit sector.

I would like to ask the minister what he can indicate in terms of how this will be gone about in order to alleviate some of the concerns of my residents.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The announcement that was made one week ago today indicated clearly

that direct grants would go to nonprofit centres under the current fiscal arrangements with the federal government and that, following the negotiations that are expected to take place at the end of this month with all ministers across the country and the federal minister, arrangements will then begin to provide direct grants to for-profit centres as well.

It would be my hope that the time delay between those two initiatives would be as short as possible.

HEALTH FUNDING

Mr. Andrewes: My question is to the Minister of Health. I wonder if the minister could confirm that he is reducing the number of residency positions in teaching hospitals in Ontario by 15 per cent, thereby reducing access to specialty medical services and causing further deterioration of the health care system in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is no deterioration in the health care services in Ontario. In fact, we have expanded the availability of services in this province, and the member knows the list of areas in which we have provided extra funding.

It is true that there has been an agreement among the participants, through the Council of Faculties of Medicine and the Council of Teaching Hospitals, with the Ministry of Health, that there be a reduction in residencies. In fact, there is, I think, over the next five years, an anticipated reduction of residency positions of about 200.

Mr. Andrewes: It is bad enough that the minister has chosen to cut the funded positions for which the Ministry of Health provides the resources and to reduce the level of medical services in Ontario, but he is also reducing the number of positions funded by hospital foundations and private sources. We simply say to the minister, why is he determined to dismantle the health care system in this province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are not dismantling the health care system. The member knows he is wrong when he makes a statement like that. In fact, I am sure he would like to acknowledge to the public that we have just recently, I think over the last six months, injected some \$50 million into various research projects, basic researching, which will provide us with the ability to increase our attack on several areas of disease problems in this province.

It seems to me the member also forgot to indicate to the public that we had increased funding to hospitals. It also seems he has forgotten to indicate to the public that there has

been an increase in the activity to provide a framework for new professionals in Ontario to become active partners in the supply of health care in this province. He has probably also forgotten that we are continuing to expand our role in providing assistive devices for the people of this province, and in other areas we have likewise expanded our activities.

I know the member would not want to ask me to stand up after I sit down and fail to answer the rest of the question. The member would likely also want me to say that our budget has increased to more than \$11 billion, at 32 per cent of our budget, a very strong commitment to quality health care.

1450

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is also for the Minister of Health. Yesterday, my colleague the member for Essex North (Mr. Hayes) asked the minister a question about a brain-damaged child who has had to receive service in Calgary because we do not provide services here in Ontario. In a letter on May 28 to that member, the Deputy Minister of Health indicated that there were services in London and Hamilton, as if these were almost up to scratch, when, in fact, that includes only 11 places for rehabilitative services in southwestern Ontario.

Recently Braxton Suffield, PhD, a neuropsychologist, has indicated to families of brain-damaged children that there will be approximately 325 people needing rehabilitative services in southwestern Ontario alone.

What rationale can the minister give us for the lack of services here in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman knows we have very specific rehabilitative services in place for people immediately following some kind of trauma or whatever. He knows that the question the member for Essex North asked yesterday was about the condition of a young woman who had suffered a serious illness while in Britain and was returned to us for long-term care.

I had indicated to him that we are examining the ramifications of establishing programs for people with acquired brain damage and that we were analysing the results of programs outside our boundaries, which were being accessed by some residents of Ontario. I was not specifically aware of the programming that was available in the care centre in Alberta that was mentioned. I had indicated that we were seriously considering what benefits might be made available to the

people of Ontario by the introduction of programs but that I could not at that stage indicate that we were in any position to introduce new programs.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The reality is that there are 16,000 people in Ontario per year who have experienced brain damage because of accidents, falling or whatever. I would like to refer the minister to a letter that was sent to him on May 15, 1987, from Dr. Franks, director of the neurological rehabilitation program at West Park Hospital. He is referring to letters that the Ministry of Health writes out.

"I believe that such letters, as sent out by your ministry, can only create annoyance on the part of the receiver. The families of head-injured patients are undergoing unbelievable psychological stress, to the point where patients are committing suicide, spouses are threatening or actually murdering spouses, patients are ending up in penal institutions and being placed in psychiatric facilities when they are not mentally ill."

When will this minister act to stop this kind of outrageous treatment of our fellow citizens in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: As I had indicated to the honourable member's predecessor in this question, we have undertaken an examination of the programs that are offered outside Ontario with respect to acquired brain damage. We have asked for advice and assistance from people who are involved in the medical practice that deals specifically with people with acquired brain damage. When advice is made available to us, we will be able to comment more precisely and specifically on what is most efficacious and what is available for us to determine whether it is worth while implementing in this province for those people.

ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Eves: I have another question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Can the minister tell me whether a single parent has to be interviewed on Metro Morning, as Joan Wilson was yesterday morning, to receive his assurance that her Ontario student assistance program funding will be reinstated to its former level?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am delighted in the new-found interest of my friend the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) in his responsibilities as critic of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, just delighted; a new breath of fresh air from the Tory opposition benches.

The answer to the question is no. The issue that was raised by Ms. Wilson yesterday on Metro Morning is an important one. We provided an additional \$4 million in funding specifically for sole-support parents to assist them with funding so that they could be in a college or university. The issue that was raised had to do with access to loans after the grant eligibility period.

I said to Ms. Wilson then and I say it to her now, and I say also to my friend the member for Parry Sound, if there is a problem, an impediment now to continuing her education after the four-year grant eligibility period, I am going to change it.

Mr. Eves: The minister has been quoted as saying that his new funding rules for single parents will enhance their participation in post-secondary education; yet, in fact, he has decreased the total amount available to such students from \$8,570 a year to \$7,000. Is that enhancing their participation in the system? Is that the minister's definition of "enhancement"?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend the member for Parry Sound simply refuses to read the entire book. If he read the book, he would find out that sole-support parents have a very difficult time with the loan aspect of the OSAP program. What we have done is replace grants with loans, and I repeat to my friend, if by doing that we still cannot solve the problem, then through the appeal procedure there is access to loans as well.

Mr. Rae: Why should they have to ask for a loan?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: In addition, my friend should know, and my friend the member for York South (Mr. Rae) should know, that during this period when we are trying to put in a new and better system, each student in the system now has the option either to use the old regime or the new regime. It is as simple as that.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. The minister will recall, I believe, that a week ago today the parliamentary assistant (Mr. Ramsay) to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines announced that his government was making a commitment to four-lane Highway 11 to North Bay at a cost of \$150 million and Highway 69 to Sudbury at a cost of \$480 million. The people of northeastern Ontario are perplexed because the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said in reply to my question yesterday, "I am not aware of the announcement he is talking about."

Is the Minister of Transportation and Communications aware of the announcement I am talking about and can he tell us whether his government is prepared to four-lane those two highways to the north or whether he is just talking about a study?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank the member for Nickel Belt for the question. The subject was touched on on Tuesday of this week. Either he was not listening, did not understand or, I suspect, was not here. Certainly, we are very much aware. He has attempted to imply that we were not aware of the announcement. Of course, we were.

What the member does not seem to understand is that the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines contains the highways budget for northern Ontario. It was very appropriate for the parliamentary assistant to make that announcement for both the planning programs on the two highways the member alludes to and the 10 substantial projects that were also made mention of in that announcement.

Mr. Laughren: I guess when you are caught out, you take cheap shots.

Can the minister confirm then that what he is really talking about and what the parliamentary assistant was talking about is simply a study about whether there would be four-laning of those two highways?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member must know that on the building of any road, let alone any major provincial highway, a substantial amount of planning is required.

If that attitude had not been used on Highway 401 near Windsor, we would not be stuck with a major repair bill because the planning was not done properly.

1500

Mr. Harris: I would like to get straight whether what the minister is saying is that he just wants to do a study for study's sake. I have never heard, before this government came into power, of wanting to do a study if, in fact, you do not want to do the projects.

Will the minister confirm one of two positions that we have heard from his government? The parliamentary assistant to the Premier has stated that the government is committed to expending the dollars and four-laning Highway 11 and Highway 69 from Parry Sound and North Bay, respectively, to Toronto. Yesterday, the Premier said: "No, they are projects we are looking at. They are under consideration, along with other priorities for northern Ontario."

Since he is the Minister of Transportation and Communications, can the minister tell us which it is?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member for Nipissing will know, since we are just completing a major four-laning project in his riding, that one simply does not go and lay out pavement. We are going to do the same planning to extend the road that exists in his riding as we will do for the rest of the road south.

Mr. Harris: I want to join in the shock of the member for Nickel Belt with the shock I have over the conflicting statements that have been made. The people of northern Ontario are also shocked. I might also tell the minister that, obviously, the mayors and the reeves of the communities and the chambers of commerce are going to have to start their lobbying process all over again, because other than the parliamentary assistant, the minister, the Premier and the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) still do not understand the problems we are having in northern Ontario and they are not prepared to make a commitment.

Mr. Speaker: Could the member turn his shock into a supplementary question?

Mr. Harris: I think it has all been said. There is no need for one.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Can the minister explain the continuing delay in finalizing plans and giving the go-ahead for the east-end ambulatory care centre in Hamilton, a delay that is causing much concern for the committee that is involved and for the Sisters of St. Joseph? The minister is aware that this is a commitment the government of Ontario first made almost 15 years ago. Is he also aware that now it will be almost impossible to start that this year?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am aware of the restriction in terms of time, but I will take a look at that. The honourable member has raised that item on several occasions, and I do understand that a question has been raised about the extra funds that might be requested in terms of moving this project forward. I know our people in the institutional branch are analysing that project, along with the other project which St. Joseph's is involved in redeveloping in Hamilton as well.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister has touched on the supplementary question. I am not sure he has answered what the delay is in getting the decision out of his office.

I ask the minister whether the commitment to \$10 million or two thirds of the cost—which was made by the previous government, which is now three years old and which was reconfirmed by this government—is going to be met in actual terms. That three-year delay has meant that the cost—and I think the minister referred to it—is now very close to \$12 million.

Is the minister going to commit himself to the project they went after, or is he trying to undermine that and pay less than the previous government was willing to pay in terms of the total cost of the project?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The analysis of what planning has gone on is important for the institutional branch so that we can undertake to flow appropriate funds. That is part of the question they are analysing. I cannot give the member an answer on that today, because as I have said, they are looking at what planning has been done, what is appropriate and what the extra funds are going to be used for. I cannot commit until that analysis has been done.

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Cureatz: I have a question to the Minister of Correctional Services. As the minister is well aware, both in our estimates and numerous times in correspondence, I have been asking him about the possibility of receiving the reports of the various inspection panels that relate to inspections of the jails across Ontario. He has been very kind to respond to me, but I feel the response has not been adequate enough.

I would like the minister to assure me and this House that, in conjunction with the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), he will bring forward to me the reports of the various inspection panels so that, as critic, I may review those reports.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I would be more than happy to do that. I get them on a fairly frequent basis. In fact, I have had three new ones brought to me today and I will be very happy to see that they are immediately forwarded to my critic.

Mr. Cureatz: Would the minister be so kind as to supply to me his record in the past in terms of his taking over the portfolio, his response to the inspection panels and whether his ministry has responded to specific requests from those panels?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I will be happy to provide that. We do respond to every criticism of every panel that is held, and in many cases it refers to work to be done by the Ministry of Government Services. We always indicate when that will be done and the extent of any renovations or

corrections to the area. I would be happy to provide our responses on each of those as well.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. Harris: I have one last point of order for the week on standing order 88(d). I would like to inform the House that there are currently some 211 outstanding questions in Orders and Notices, some of which date back to April 1986, almost 15 months ago.

I, other members of my party and members of the third party have raised this matter several times during the last two sessions. We find it appalling that the government continues this flagrant abuse of the members of the people of Ontario. Surely, with an ever-growing bureaucracy of 80,000 civil servants and fast growing—it will soon be 100,000 I guess—this “open” government can provide some answers.

Mr. Speaker, you appear to have the powers to enforce all the standing orders except 88(d). I ask you to consider, over the summer months perhaps, making recommendations to this House or to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly to give the Speaker the powers he needs to prevent this flagrant abuse by this government of the rules of the House which prevents this assembly and the public from having access to information and to give him the power to enforce standing order 88(d).

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I understand the frustration the honourable member is experiencing. When I had his job, I had the same frustration when the government of the day, before we took office, seemed to be slower than I felt was appropriate in responding to questions we put in Orders and Notices.

While the member would know that I have tabled the answers to scores of questions that have appeared in the Hansard report, and the members have access to that, it is interesting that any questions or any follow-up by members of the opposition is rare, if it occurs at all.

It is not for me to judge the quality of the questions put forward, but I do want to tell the House, in a defence that is not sufficient but that is what I have to put forward, that many of the staff of the various ministries, a significant number of them, spend almost full-time trying to get the information together. It then disappears into the maw of the opposition, never to be heard from again. As a matter of fact, there is every indication that they never even read the answers.

My own expression of regret—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson).

Hon. Mr. Nixon: My own feeling of regret is that somehow the opposition feel that if they can point with pride to 493 questions in Orders and Notices, it looks as if they are doing their work. It is simply a function of the fact that the taxpayers have provided them with such extensive, additional research assistance that these people do that.

I am being switched off and that is the end of my defence.

Mr. Speaker: A very interesting exercise.

PETITION

ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH

Mr. Philip: I have a petition signed by over 20,000 residents of Ontario.

“To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Each year, under the Ontario Animals For Research Act, approximately 4,000 unclaimed dogs and cats are released by impounding agencies to research facilities. These pets can be used in any form of teaching, testing and experimentation. Research facilities are exempted from the provisions of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

“Many municipalities and animal welfare organizations believe that animal pounds/shelters should operate as sanctuaries for lost and abandoned pets and are, therefore, opposed to the sections of the act requiring pounds/shelters to surrender pets.

“Therefore, we the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario to pass into law a bill introduced by Ed Philip, MPP, Etobicoke, entitled An Act to amend the Animals for Research Act, inasmuch as this bill allows municipalities to decide whether or not to surrender unclaimed pets to research.”

The letter from the group that collected and sent this petition signed by over 20,000 people says as follows: “Premier Peterson purports to preside over an open and democratic government but there is nothing open or democratic about the Liberal government’s decision to kill Bill 21, which was passed in the Ontario Legislature.”

1510

MOTIONS

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moves that, notwithstanding standing order 71(h), the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot items 16 and 17,

by way of allowing the rules to be flexible enough to accommodate the opposition.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hon. Mr. Nixon moves that the terms of reference of the select committee on health, established by an order of the House on July 10, 1986, be amended to provide that the final report of the committee be presented to the assembly on or before December 31, 1987.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moves that the provisional standing orders be extended to remain in effect until 12 midnight on Thursday, December 31, 1987.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BEEF CATTLE MARKETING AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved second reading of Bill 77, An Act to amend the Beef Cattle Marketing Act.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The Beef Cattle Marketing Amendment Act amends the present act as it applies to licence fees, also called checkoffs, collected on the sale of beef cattle.

When a person sells beef cattle through an auction market or directly to a packer, a licence fee of one fifth of one per cent of the selling price is deducted and forwarded to the Ontario Cattlemen's Association. The association is designated to represent beef producers under the Beef Cattle Marketing Act.

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association has done a lot in recent years for the betterment of beef producers and the beef industry as a whole with the funding that this checkoff provides. It has meant support for product promotion, market information, research and other worthwhile programs.

The checkoff has helped ensure that standardized procedures are in effect at slaughtering plants, including uniform methods of weighing cattle and carcasses. It has helped fund the administration and costs associated with the organization's computerized market information system. This information network will eventually see the Toronto stockyards and 13 country sales barns wired together, eventually incorporating 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the sales volume in this province. The province and the

Ontario Cattlemen's Association also worked together to establish the beef cattle financial protection program.

These are just some of the ways that the checkoff collected by the Ontario Cattlemen's Association has worked for the benefit of the overall beef cattle industry in this province; yet the current Beef Cattle Marketing Act leaves this organization under a financial cloud. The present act permits the refund of these licence fees at the request of those selling cattle, and currently about 20 per cent of licence fees submitted are refunded.

The Beef Cattle Marketing Amendment Act would revoke this provision. It would make these licence fees nonrefundable, as the majority of cattlemen all across the province have requested. Nonrefundable fees were discussed by interested beef producers at meetings of county cattlemen's associations across the province last December, January and February.

At the Ontario Cattlemen's Association meeting in February, 85 per cent of the delegates voted in favour of making licence fees nonrefundable. With a nonrefundable checkoff, the Ontario Cattlemen's Association would enjoy greater financial stability. It would be better able to plan for the future for the benefit of all producers. There would be additional funds for beef promotion, market information services, research and program administration that would benefit all cattlemen in Ontario. The Ontario Cattlemen's Association would be in a better position to face and respond to the very real challenges that the future presents to both the association and the industry.

At the Ontario Cattlemen's Association's annual meeting in February, I challenged the association to bring this industry together, to strive for co-operation and consensus among all the players. There are pressing demands, marketing and others, that need to be dealt with right now. These require the organization to work much more closely with all the cattle producers in this province. The nonrefundable checkoff will provide greater financial stability to help them do this.

In addition, the bill also adds regulatory powers permitting the collection of information on cattle sales to assist in marketing and promotion activities. It further restricts ways in which this information can be used to ensure it remains confidential when it comes to individual producers or processors. Having been granted special status through the Beef Cattle Marketing Act, the Ontario Cattlemen's Association has

been given the responsibility for providing sound leadership to the cattle industry to truly represent all of Ontario's cattlemen.

The changes proposed in the Beef Cattle Marketing Amendment Act will spell long-term benefits for the industry as a whole in this province, and I urge the honourable members to endorse this worthy goal with their support for this bill.

Mr. Stevenson: I rise today to support this bill in principle, but it is, I suppose, a rather sad state of affairs that we see surrounding this bill. Supporting it under the current situation gives us considerable uneasiness in our caucus. The beef industry has been under a significant degree of economic stress for some time and it remains that way now, partially because there is uneven support for that industry among governments, particularly within Canada and, to a lesser degree, internationally.

In my 90-second statement at the start of our session this afternoon, I mentioned the problem beef producers and others are facing in their inability to get stabilization on fed grains. I referred to how producers in western Canada have been able to get around that problem with the Western Grain Stabilization Act and the additional \$13 per tonne which is being paid on fed grains there.

That is having a very profound impact on the feedlot industry here in Ontario, and the effects of those western programs are really just beginning to be seen. If this unevenness of support continues, it is going to have a very profound effect on the feedlot industry here, particularly in western Ontario.

1520

In any organization or organizations that try to represent an industry as complex as the beef industry in Ontario or Canada, undoubtedly there will be wide differences of opinion. It is never easy but it is easier in a situation such as corn, for example. The Ontario Corn Producers' Association has a relatively uniform end product sold by somewhat simpler methods and the opportunities for a great diversity of opinions on how things should be done are not as great in an industry with more uniformity.

Still, there is lots of room for arguments and differences of opinion and so on, but not quite as much as in an industry such as the beef industry where you have livestock being sold into the marketplace from a matter of a few weeks old to a few years old. So there is great diversity in the type of livestock going to market, the size of that livestock, its age, the end product, the type of

meat and the type of cuts that are going to be produced from the various animals being sold. This contributes to the great diversity of opinion on how the marketing of these products should be handled and how an organization trying to represent those various producers and that diversity of opinion should be organized and funded.

The diversity of opinion and some of the splits in the beef industry have existed for some time but there is no doubt at all that the handling of the lead-up to this bill by the minister has contributed in a very great way to the degree of split we now have in the beef industry in Ontario. In fact, it is rather difficult to imagine how he could have handled the situation much worse than he did.

I refer to an article that appeared on May 26 in *Farm and Country*. There is a picture of the minister and it says, "The beef checkoff law is stalled." This of course was prior to when it was introduced in the House, while it was still being discussed in cabinet.

It is rather interesting that in just a matter of a week or two we have seen this bill move ahead. The House leader has come over to our House leader and this side of the House in the past few days to see whether we could move this up in Orders and Notices and how quickly we would be prepared to discuss the bill. I think it is passing strange that at this particular moment the Beef Producers for Change have been putting their position together. Indeed, I believe last night was the final meeting where their presentation was finalized to go to the farm products marketing people. I believe the date is July 7 or July 8; in that area.

One wonders whether the minister is trying to get this bill off his plate before the situation opens up any more. Certainly, the Ontario Beef Producers for Change will be coming forward with some ideas on marketing, and I imagine on financing of beef organizations in Ontario. It is somewhat unfortunate that the position paper has not been made clear to us before we have to debate this bill. I understand the end of the session is coming up and it seems reasonable that we might at least try to get this through the House before we leave here. Again, it is very unfortunate, the way this has been handled and the timing of this coming forward relative to other events going on.

In general, as a party, we accept the use of checkoffs for the support of agricultural organizations. Of course, we have various forms of checkoffs and fees used in all sorts of professional organizations, unions and other agricultural

organizations, and various arrangements other than just simply a membership fee. It does not go against the principles of this party that the people producing various products and who particularly stand to benefit by the promotion of those products and end products arriving therefrom, also the benefit from producer groups and organizations lobbying government and dealing with the consumer groups and so on—we have no problem in supporting this type of funding in most situations. Indeed, I have asked the minister why he has not moved more quickly in some other situations.

I guess a very good example would be the Ontario Canola Growers' Association, which asked for a checkoff many months ago now; no action was taken. That group is suffering quite considerably right now because of its inability to get funding due to troubles in the industry at the moment and a tremendous acreage reduction in Ontario this year. Yet it is a commodity that has tremendous potential in Ontario; a commodity which will in the future, I am sure, provide a very significant alternative crop to producers in Ontario. It has the potential of very significant income for cash croppers in Ontario in an area where there are more limited opportunities, let us say, less diverse cropping systems available, in some of the shorter growing season areas, particularly in central Ontario and eastern Ontario.

I might mention the proposal that appears to be going forward for a checkoff for the general farm groups across Ontario. I know they are putting a lot of work into it. I have heard some early reports on it and I have seen reports in the farm media on that sort of checkoff. Again, the early proposals look fairly promising.

We do not really have any particular problem with the checkoff and the fact that it is going to be made nonrefundable. We just wish that the procedure leading up to today had been handled in a very different fashion, a fashion that may well have led to more compromise among the producers in the industry, a fashion that would not have contributed to the same degree of split that has occurred in the industry, particularly in the last few months.

Although it is not part of this bill, I wonder if the minister will take time to respond to how he sees the results of the passage of this bill affecting further discussions on the definition of a "beef producer." It seems to me, with the passage of this bill, that we are going to have producers selling beef animals and paying a checkoff, and then they may well not be eligible to vote as beef

producers at some future vote that may well be held.

1530

That is just one example of the complications that could be faced in future discussions, and there are a number of other interesting examples I could give. I would be curious as to the minister's response to some of the interesting complications that I suspect are going to result from some of the future discussions in trying to define a beef producer, and who might vote and who may be paying fees or checkoffs.

With that, I think I will terminate my discussion by giving support in principle to the bill but expressing my displeasure at the way the minister has brought this forward to the Legislature.

Mr. Hayes: I have to stand up on behalf of our party and say that we are not in favour of Bill 77. We do not argue with the necessity for checkoff. We know funds are needed for any type of an organization or any type of business. No one argues with these types of economics. What we do argue is that there is a lot of groundwork that has to be done and there are a lot of requirements that have to be met before the nonrefundable checkoff becomes law.

We feel there are a lot of questions out there by the beef producers in Ontario that have not been answered and also, when we talk about the vote, the procedures that were used across this province at the various counties and regions, there are still a lot of questions about that. For example, some counties never charged for a membership; others did so by a form of a compulsory checkoff when cattle were sold in the county. Some paid membership as part of a banquet ticket at the county annual; others collected a formal membership of \$1 to \$5.

The 35,082 people who voted certainly include many who are not beef producers. According to Statistics Canada, there were 21,046 votes cast for or against the nonrefundable checkoff: 15,092 for and 554 against. On this basis, the vote passed. However, in some cases—according to the information I have received from beef producers—some of the negative votes were not even counted or included.

The fact of the matter is that the Ontario Cattlemen's Association is concerned, and probably rightfully so, about the number of producers who want refunds, and there is a fairly large number of them. Why do they want their refunds? It seems obvious to me that the reason they want their refunds is because the Ontario

Cattlemen's Association, at the present time, is not really fulfilling the wishes of all the beef producers in Ontario.

They seem to be afraid to speak about supply management, for example. Just to get back to where I was talking before of not being opposed to the idea of nonrefundable dues checkoff, the people who are opposed to it are saying: "First of all, I want a definition of an Ontario beef producer. That should be established. That has not been established as of today."

All bona fide producers should be registered. We could start by requiring the registration of all checkoff contributors.

They also want a constitutional voting procedure that could be established under proper supervision. This is one of the things that I asked the minister to do a while back in the Legislature because there are still a lot of questions as to the method by which the votes were taken across this province.

The other thing that is wanted and is needed is an organization. The organization that would receive a nonrefundable checkoff has to represent all producers in Ontario, not just certain producers.

There is no doubt there are more requirements that need attention and should be met before a decision is made. My colleague, the critic for the Conservative party, indicated to the minister that either on July 7 or July 8 the Beef Producers for Change has a meeting with the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board. I think what should happen here is, before we even attempt to amend this act, we should at least give the Beef Producers for Change the opportunity to meet with the Farm Products Marketing Board to try to resolve some of the differences between the Beef Producers for Change and the Ontario Cattlemen's Association.

I do not think there is any question as to the type of job that the Ontario Cattlemen's Association is doing in advertising. I do not think anyone is really arguing that particular point, but they are arguing that it has not really addressed certain problems like marketing efficiencies, development of a cost of production formula by actual survey and related to stabilization income insurance, efficiency payment pricing and the implementation of production quotas with no value, issued and controlled by an all-beef commission and then also attached to the land and premises.

I am standing up in opposition to this bill because I think there are a lot of questions out there that have not been answered. I think when we make legislation here for the benefit of the

beef producers we should be doing it for all the beef producers in Ontario and not just one particular group that the minister feels he has to listen to. I think we have to take in all the beef producers' concerns before we even attempt to amend this act.

The Deputy Speaker: Comments and questions, minister, or debate?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I am just going to wind up, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay. This is debate rather than comments and questions. Is that right?

Mr. Pollock: I just want to ask: Is there no criteria for a beef producer? Is there nothing outlined at all as to who is supposed to be a beef producer and who is not? That is one of the questions I have. I have some concerns about passing this bill before the Beef Producers for Change actually meet with the Farm Products Marketing Board. I really cannot see what the big hurry is all of a sudden at this particular point. Maybe my colleague might want to address that.

1540

The Deputy Speaker: That was comments and questions. Other comments and questions of the member for Essex North? There being none, reply: two minutes.

Mr. Hayes: My understanding is that the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and also the Ontario Beef Producers for Change have met a couple of times and have not been able to come up with a proper definition of a beef producer. I know the Ontario Beef Producers for Change is suggesting someone who has four-plus head of cattle; that is what its definition is. I agree with the member who asked the question; I cannot understand the rush either and these people should be given the opportunity to speak and sit down with the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board and iron out some of these problems before we rush this bill in.

The Deputy Speaker: Does any other honourable member want to participate in the debate? If not, this completes the debate. The minister.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I guess I was in opposition long enough to know that whenever a bill or an amendment to a bill is introduced in the House, it gives the opposition members an opportunity to talk about anything that may not even pertain to the principle of this bill. The member for Durham York (Mr. Stevenson) raised some of those very matters. I am not sure I want to spend a lot of time talking about something that has absolutely nothing to do with the bill, such as stabilization

of fed grains, but I encourage the member for Durham-York to speak to his colleagues in Ottawa because he knows that stabilization comes under the Agricultural Stabilization Act, which is the responsibility of the federal government.

If he wants to have fed grains included in stabilization, surely the member should take a trip to Ottawa, knock on the door of his colleague and friend, I am sure, John Wise, the federal Minister of Agriculture, and say, "Mr. Wise, I think it is time you decided to include fed grains under stabilization." If Mr. Wise agrees to do that, then I will look at our top-up program, the farm income stabilization program, but we want to walk in lock-step on this whole business of stabilization. The stabilization program by and large is the responsibility of the federal government. Surely, the honourable member knows his way to Ottawa and knows his way into the federal minister's office. He can sit down and talk about this very thing with the federal Minister of Agriculture.

The member for Durham-York said he thought the situation was handled badly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. I guess that is his opinion. When I became minister and this thing first surfaced, I indicated to the Ontario Cattlemen's Association that I wanted to make sure it was representing a majority of the cattle producers in its request for a nonrefundable checkoff. I sent them back to the county organizations and I said, "I want an expression of opinion by every county association on this very matter." I think there were something like 18 county associations that had not expressed an opinion on a nonrefundable checkoff and I was not going to pursue this until I heard from those 18 county associations. So they got those associations to express their opinions and I have to say that a large majority of the county associations voted in favour of a nonrefundable checkoff.

Then when they came back to me, I said: "Okay, now I want you people, the Ontario Cattlemen's Association, to publicize widely what I am prepared to do," and that was that if they indeed got a large majority of cattle producers to vote in favour of a nonrefundable checkoff, I would introduce in the Legislature this session an amendment to the Beef Cattle Marketing Act to do away with that section of the bill that indicated that the licence fee could be refundable upon request.

That is the procedure I went through. It is what is called consultation, something the previous government knew nothing about, something I

would hope the third party would know something about. It is called consultation. It is making sure that all beef producers had an opportunity to know exactly what I was intending to do if, indeed, the beef producers voted by a large majority in favour of a nonrefundable checkoff. If that is what members call bad handling of the situation, then I make no apologies for handling it the way I did.

There is the organization known as the Beef Producers for Change, which the member for Durham-York alluded to. I would have to tell the honourable member that any presentation made by the Beef Producers for Change for a different marketing system has absolutely nothing to do with this amendment for a nonrefundable checkoff.

I have met with the Beef Producers for Change on several occasions, as I have with the Ontario Cattlemen's Association. I told them there is a procedure to go through if they want a different marketing system. If they want a central agency or supply management, they petition. They petition the Farm Products Marketing Board, which operates under legislation and which has been established now for a good many years, and then it will recommend to me that a plebiscite be taken. Once that petition is made, if there is 15 per cent of the beef producers on that petition, then I am quite prepared to go to the cattle producers in this province and have a plebiscite. That procedure is one that has been laid down for some period of time, and all they have to do is follow that procedure. It has absolutely nothing to do with this nonrefundable checkoff bill.

The honourable member for Durham-York went on, and he talked about canola. If somebody can tell me what canola has to do with beef cattle, I would sure like to know that. I do not know whether the honourable member knows what canola means—I would hope he does—but it has nothing to do with this bill, nor does the Ontario Federation of Agriculture checkoff have anything to do with this bill, so I am not going to waste the time of the House to comment on those issues.

The last question the member asked was, how does this bill affect further discussions as to the definition of a beef producer? I have told the cattlemen's association and the Beef Producers for Change to get together and come up with a definition of a beef producer, and I have to tell the members that they are getting together. They are presently discussing the definition of a beef producer. Once they come back to me with the

definition of a beef producer, then we should be in business.

I have to tell members—and I have told the cattlemen's association and the Beef Producers for Change—that if the Ontario Cattlemen's Association is charging a licence fee to carry out its various responsibilities, then as far as I am concerned, anyone who pays a licence fee and can no longer get it back has an opportunity to voice his or her opinion at future cattlemen's association meetings. I have made that clear to the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and the Beef Producers for Change, so there is no reason in the world that anyone who is selling cattle should not have an opportunity to express his opinion at future cattlemen's association meetings.

To get to the member for Essex North (Mr. Hayes), I think the greatest surprise I have had since coming into this business was hearing the New Democratic Party get up and oppose compulsory checkoffs. I cannot believe it. My goodness, what does the NDP operate on if it is not compulsory checkoffs from the paycheques of the employees?

1550

Mr. Hayes: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. What is the point of order?

Mr. Epp: There is nothing out of order.

Mr. Speaker: What is your point of order?

Mr. Hayes: The point is that the minister has misquoted what I have said in this House. We have not said we are opposed.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Many members have differing points of views on different occasions and that seems to be the way the system works.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The member for Essex North got up and said he was opposing the bill. The bill has to do with a nonrefundable compulsory checkoff. What I am saying is that the NDP party has relied for years on compulsory checkoffs. The unions which it claims to represent have relied for years on compulsory checkoffs, and this member is now getting up and opposing a bill which is all about compulsory checkoffs. I simply do not understand.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Point of order under which standing order?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not familiar with all the numbers on the standing orders but I find it very difficult that the Minister of Agriculture and

Food, who supported scabs at Fleck, would be able to tell us that we are not in favour of—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member does not have a point of order.

Mr. Breagh: Point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Surely the chairman of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly knows there is no such thing as a point of personal privilege.

Mr. Breagh: There should be. At least when the Minister of Agriculture and Food stands in his place—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Breagh: The name of our party is the New Democratic Party. An NDP party is a social event.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Whatever it is called. Let me say that the Ontario Cattlemen's Association is a democratically elected body representing the beef producers in this province. It is the organization that is designated under the Beef Cattle Marketing Act to carry out its mandate, which includes the attainment of objectives to stimulate, increase and improve the sale of cattle or carcasses and to disseminate information concerning the cattle industry.

Likewise, unions are democratically elected to make decisions and to carry out their mandate. Surely the member is not suggesting that government interfere with the mode of operation of unions. That is exactly what he is asking me to do with a democratically elected body such as the Ontario Cattlemen's Association.

I find it unbelievable that the NDP party—the NDP—is opposing this bill. I am pleased that the members of the Conservative Party have seen the wisdom of supporting the bill, and I congratulate them for it.

1610

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Riddell's motion for second reading of Bill 77, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Ashe, Barlow, Bradley, Callahan, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Cousens, Cureatz, Elston, Epp, Eves, Fontaine, Fulton, Gillies, Gregory, Haggerty, Harris, Hart, Henderson, Jackson, Knight, Lane, Leluk, Lupusella, Mancini, Marland, McCague, McLean, Miller, G. I., Munro; Newman, Nixon, O'Connor, Offer, O'Neil, Partington, Poirier, Pollock, Polsinelli, Pope,

Reycraft, Riddell, Ruprecht, Sargent, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Stevenson, Sweeney, Van Horne, Ward, Wiseman, Yakabuski.

Nays

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Grande, Grier, Hayes, Laughren, Mackenzie, McClellan, Morin-Strom, Philip, Rae, Reville, Warner, Wildman.

Ayes 52; nays 17.

Bill ordered for third reading.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved resolution 10:

That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants and other necessary payments pending the voting of supply for the period commencing July 1, 1987, and ending October 31, 1987, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: This routine interim supply motion approves payments for the business of the government from July 1 until October 31 of this year. The funds that will be covered are just in excess of \$10 billion, a bit less than a third of the budget. I think the precise amount is estimated to be \$10.2 billion.

I understand the honourable members would like to use the motion as a vehicle for some general debate. I regret to inform them that I may have to absent myself from the House very briefly, but I can assure them that I will read their words carefully at the very earliest opportunity. I will be back as soon as possible. If you insist on adjourning, you will not break my heart.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions of the Treasurer and comments: the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: I would like to know whether the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) is prepared to respond at the conclusion of this debate to the questions members may place during the debate because I intend to participate and I intend to use the opportunity to raise a number of serious concerns. I would like to know that the Treasurer is prepared to respond, obviously not today but perhaps even in writing at some future date, to the questions I will be placing during the debate.

1620

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I say to the honourable member, whose contributions to debate I always take seriously and whose comments I listen to with much interest, that I will respond to the best of my ability.

Mr. McLean: I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak on resolution 10. I probably will get into a little bit of the debate and talk about what is in the budget to make sure the Treasurer hears the feelings of the member for Simcoe East on what, in my opinion, he has not done.

It is regrettable that the Treasurer opted for further large spending increases in his budget rather than capitalizing on an expanding economy to reduce the deficit. The Treasurer has indicated that expenditures will increase by 6.9 per cent, and that is on top of a whopping 11.4 per cent last year. The Treasurer has noted that this is the fifth straight year Ontario has experienced economic expansion. That translates into faster economic growth over a two-year period than any other major country in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

He has painted a rosy picture of the coming year: 82,000 housing starts; the creation of 125,000 jobs; continuing moderate inflation of 4.2 per cent; real gross provincial product predicted to grow at a rate of 3.5 per cent; the unemployment rate reduced to 6.5 per cent; private sector spending increasing to 7.2 per cent; a 7.5 per cent rise in consumer spending in retail sales; and personal income growing by approximately 7.1 per cent.

I would think that when times are good like these, a government displaying fiscal responsibility calls for the running of a budgetary surplus. This government's failure to do so shows that it has sadly lost an opportunity that will undoubtedly come back to haunt the taxpayers of this province should economic hard times return. When this government took power two years ago, total budgetary expenditures in this province amounted to some \$28.86 billion. If the Treasurer had held his spending increases to the rate of inflation, the total for this year would be \$31.3 billion and Ontario would now be running a \$980 million surplus rather than a \$2.06 billion deficit.

The Treasurer points to five years of unprecedented growth in Ontario. What he does not point out is the fact that the indebtedness of every man, woman and child in Ontario has steadily increased from \$2,700 to a staggering \$4,000. Can the Treasurer even imagine what will happen if the economy suffers a downturn? Does he care or is it good enough for him and this government that good times last only until the next election?

This government took power two years ago, loudly promoting a sense of newness. It said policies and initiatives would be future-oriented,

but this budget, the budget the Treasurer just brought down, sadly indicates to me and to the taxpayers of Ontario that this government has only short-term goals in mind by focusing most of its attention on the next provincial election rather than concentrating on providing the residents of this province with direction and a vision of tomorrow.

This is a stand-pat budget. It does nothing to alleviate the pressing problems of overcrowded and underfinanced health care, youth unemployment, job retraining for youth and older workers alike. The housing crisis is part of it as is education underfunding. Students in this province are undoubtedly pleased to hear this government's plans to dole out \$100 million in capital funding, but I say that is only half of what they possibly require and the allocation of \$25 million, bringing the total of the Ontario student assistance program to \$171 million, does not address the problem of grant eligibility periods.

If students are being denied a college education because of a lack of assistance, then I support the extra \$25 million, but I find it a little difficult to support spending \$5 million on reducing tuition fees for graduate students from outside Canada. I would call this more a foreign aid expenditure than an educational cost. Students in my riding of Simcoe East deserve the additional support announced for the Ontario student assistance program before this government takes any steps to increase foreign aid expenditure for tuition fees for those from outside the country's boundaries.

This government is starving education by tossing cheaper hamburger to students rather than providing them with more computers in their classrooms. This government has to put more into education. There is no doubt about it. There should be no debate stronger than what we can do with regard to education, yet, the total education tax bill paid by the province has steadily declined over the past two years. If this pace continues, I am seriously concerned that our students will not be able to compete for jobs when they graduate, if they graduate at all.

The Treasurer called education a top priority in his budget yet shrank provincial funds, leaving more than 55 per cent of the cost of education squarely on the backs of the local taxpayers. This budget's 5.5 per cent increase in school operating grants barely holds the line of the existing provincial support level of 44.9 per cent. If I remember correctly, it was this same government that promised to return the province's share of school funding to the 60 per cent level. So much

for promises under this government. As a direct result of the latest budget, education's share of provincial spending has slipped to 12.3 per cent from 13.2 per cent.

There are numerous other examples of failure in the last budget of this province. The Treasurer was quick to announce that there would be no increases in taxes this time around. What he failed to do was to lessen the incredible tax burden he placed on the back of the average person in the province over the past two years. Of course, there were no new taxes. There could not be because this Treasurer has already taxed everyone to the limit and in many cases even beyond.

The people of Ontario have already been taxed to the tune of \$900 million and they will continue to pay those same taxes this year. The Treasurer has inherited tremendous income through taxes. With the economic expansion we are currently seeing, this would have been the ideal time to cut personal taxes by at least 10 per cent. There were no tax cuts, however. The Treasurer has mortgaged the future of our children and they will be forced in future generations to struggle with the increasing debt of this province.

The senior citizens of this province, those people who built what this generation is now enjoying, were counting on this government to come up with some innovative programs to meet their needs. What did they get from this budget? The Treasurer said he was going to increase the tax grant by giving them \$600 to write off their income tax instead of \$500. If the government really wanted to increase the tax grant effectively from the \$500 granted them some seven years ago by the previous government, then the tax rebate should have been \$750, more generous than what it was.

I cannot let the opportunity pass without pointing out that the skills training and development programs under this government have been a disaster. Although this province faces a shortage of skilled labour, this budget has no provisions for new skills training programs for young or experienced workers to try to keep pace with technological change. If they cannot adapt to the new work place, they have no choice but to try to scratch out an existence on welfare.

In this government's budget two years ago, the Treasurer promised to help 230,000 young people during the first year of the Futures program, but now this same government comes back two years later to reveal this program has assisted only 50,000 young people. That translates to only 21.7 per cent of the original target.

What are the remaining 180,000 to do, with the so-called help the government is providing?

1630

The Treasury also announced a \$290-million, two-year program to construct and repair roads throughout Ontario, but \$130 million has already been announced, leaving a paltry \$53 million for new projects. Approximately \$20 million has already been allotted for northern Ontario in the coming fiscal year, so this leaves only \$33 million for the remainder of the province, or enough to construct maybe 30 miles of highway.

The parents in my riding of Simcoe East and throughout the rest of this province were disappointed to learn that the Treasurer has failed to come forward with a comprehensive and innovative proposal on day care. He has come forward with a partial program, even though the Liberals made an accord commitment with the New Democratic Party to make day care a universal right. Those who are desperately seeking day care in this province look at this budget and ask: "Where is this government's initiative? What is its overall plan and strategy?" A comprehensive day care policy was to be revolutionary, but the promise has not kept pace and parents have been betrayed.

The government has managed to increase the guaranteed annual income system for disabled support, but the Treasurer is still refusing to pass through the \$150-a-month increase provided by the federal government. For every \$2 this government gets from the federal government to help the disabled, it keeps \$1. I find it scandalous that any government would even consider pre-empting a federal increase in pensions to disabled people in Ontario. This displays a considerable lack of compassion and concern on the part of this government.

The availability of housing has reached a crisis point in Ontario. In Orillia, the vacancy rate stands at less than one per cent. In fact, seven of eight Canadian cities with a vacancy rate of less than one per cent are located in this province. The budget acknowledges the major changes presented by Ontario's acute shortage of affordable rental accommodation. Having said that, the Treasurer then turns around and does nothing about it. The only increase in the housing scene in my riding is the cost of that housing, and that is not acceptable to me or to the people in this province desperately searching for an affordable roof over their heads.

We see an increase in the cost of housing and a startling increase in the numbers in administrative spending on the ministry's bureaucrats. The

money used in administrative spending—and I am talking about the increase, not the total—could have been used to construct at least 200 new rental units in this province. That is misdirected spending, if there ever was a case.

In health care, this budget offers no new money for community-based health services, no new money for paramedic program expansion and no new money for mental health, most important to the people in my riding of Simcoe East. I see no new money for expansion or the construction of a new hospital in Orillia. The Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital has been put off time after time by this government and by the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), who claims to need more time to decide on this health care facility's future.

Everyone has come to the point where he wonders whether there will ever be a future for this hospital. By not providing any capital funding in this budget for hospitals like the one in my riding, this government is showing a lack of concern for the delivery of health care in Ontario.

It has been said before and it needs to be said again: this budget is a missed opportunity. There was an opportunity to reduce a debt that future generations will be carrying with them, and it is really through no fault of their own. That is a missed opportunity. There was an opportunity to reduce taxes, to make young or inexperienced workers better trained to deal with technological changes in the work place; another missed opportunity.

There was an opportunity to increase education spending as one way to invest in a generation that could lead this province into the future; another missed opportunity. There was an opportunity to announce capital spending programs in the health care field to ensure that residents of Ontario receive the treatment and care they justly deserve; another missed opportunity.

This budget confirms my belief that this government has no interest in reducing the tax burden on the people of Ontario when the economy is experiencing unprecedented expansion. Certainly, this is another missed opportunity and one that could have shocking repercussions in the future if the economy fails to perform at the current rate. This government's tax coffers are filled to the point of overflowing but there appears to be no interest in sharing this wealth with the taxpayers of Ontario. After all, it was their money to begin with.

The people have an opportunity to build their own futures with tax cuts, by investment,

purchases of goods and services or strengthening the industrial base, but this government has ignored them.

I believe what really matters during times of prosperity, such as we are in and are currently experiencing, is how a government plans for a defence against times when prosperity is no longer with us. By bringing down this budget, the government has shown us it believes in miracles. It believes the economic miracle we have had for the past five years will continue, but there are just too many external influences that can easily turn that economic miracle into an economic nightmare.

With this budget, I have learned to keep my hand on my wallet and I urge the taxpayers of Ontario to keep a tight grip on their wallets too, because over the past two years this government has increased taxes by up to 30 per cent. This government refuses to listen and to lessen the tax burden on the people of Ontario, even with a Treasury that is bulging at the seams.

Two years ago, the Liberals announced a \$100-million northern development fund. To date, only \$17 million has been spent. Again, the Liberals received the headlines while the people of northern Ontario last year received less than half of what had been promised. Last year's budget allocated \$30 million to an expanded small business development corporation program. Actual cost flows for the year amounted to only \$16 million.

Community economic transformation agreements received a budget allocation of \$5 million. Against that, less than \$0.5 million was actually spent. On skills development, the Liberals spent \$56 million less than the budgeted \$456 million. One of these is the Futures program that was announced to assist 230,000 young people with job training. In fact, by the government's admission the program has assisted only 50,000 young people.

What is the record over the past two years? Total provincial revenues have increased by nearly \$9 billion; 34.4 per cent. Personal income tax revenues have increased by more than \$3.7 billion. Retail sales tax revenues have increased by \$1.6 billion. Land transfer tax proceeds have increased by an incredible 223.7 per cent. The huge increase in government revenues clearly shows that the government has been the primary benefactor of the economic boom and reflects the impact of the tax increases the government enacted through its 1985-86 budget.

On the expenditure side, the Liberals have increased government spending by nearly 30 per

cent since taking office, an indication that spending controls have eroded and that three Liberal budgets have increased government spending by about 10 per cent annually during a period when the inflation rate was averaging 4.1 per cent. The provincial civil service, which under the previous government had been gradually reduced, went up by almost 5,000 people from March 1985 to March 1987 at an estimated annual cost of over \$200 million.

With the policies this government has in place and with what it is asking for today in this resolution, approval of over \$10 billion, it is not too hard to see where the taxpayers in this province are getting off.

We talk about agriculture. We talk about the change in the policy with regard to the tax being taken off the farm land and buildings and just paying taxes on the home. They feel they are putting about \$17 million back into the pockets of the farmers. How much would they put in the pockets of the farmers if they had increased the 60 per cent to 70 per cent and left it as it was? I believe that for the farmers in this province, still the backbone of the country, a 70 per cent rebate would have increased relief and left the criteria the same.

1640

The government brought in a policy of \$2,500 per farmer to encourage farm safety and improved farm management. But you must have an income of \$12,000 a year to be involved in that program.

I am amazed. When this government came to power it indicated it would double the budget in agriculture. That certainly has not happened—another commitment not filled.

The Ontario tax grant for seniors: As I indicated in my earlier remarks, what the government should be looking at is a new system. School tax should be deducted for senior citizens; the rest should be paid on the property. If the government took off what they pay in school tax, which is 70 per cent in the case of many municipalities, seniors would be receiving a better return than they are getting now.

Transportation: I look at what is in the budget for transportation and what we heard in question period today with regard to Highway 11 and Highway 69, where one of the parliamentary assistants indicated that the government would be proceeding with the four-laning of those highways. During question period we were given to understand that neither the Premier (Mr. Peterson) nor the minister was aware of what

money was being spent—another study that is being done.

I want to say briefly, and I have said it before, the money the Treasurer is raising has increased drastically over the last two years. When we are in good times and the government has plenty of revenues, that is when it should be getting rid of its debt. It budgeted for a \$980-million deficit. They say: "The deficit is coming down. It went down from \$2.3 billion to \$1.5 billion; now it is down to \$980 million." That is a deficit that is budgeted for within the budget.

The total debt of the province, as we said, is about \$4,000 for every man, woman and child; so we have a total debt in this province of about \$37 billion. What is this government doing? It is adding almost another \$1 billion to the debt. When people say they are reducing the debt, they are not reducing it at all; it is still being increased by almost \$1 billion.

There are a lot more things I would like to discuss with regard to tourism and what is taking place within my riding, but I know there are a lot of other people who would like to speak. I will cut my remarks very short by saying that I am pleased to have had the opportunity to put on the record some of the concerns I have with regard to the budgetary process and why the Treasurer wants the approval for the more than \$10 billion that this resolution is all about today.

Mr. Epp: I want to make a short comment. I was interested in the comments of the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) with regard to the balanced budget which our Treasurer brought out not very long ago and which I think the great majority of Ontarians applauded because they saw in it two things that had not happened for many a decade; one was a balanced budget and the other was a reduced deficit.

Mr. Warner: What are you talking about? There is no balanced budget.

Mr. Breaugh: Have you got an inner ear problem or what?

Mr. Epp: Pardon me; one was a reduced deficit and the other was no tax increases.

The member for Simcoe East spoke about mortgaging the future of our children. In fact, if he looks back at what his own colleagues in the predecessor government did, he will find deficits of \$2 billion and over in a number of their budgets. Now he is complaining that there is a deficit of less than \$1 billion in this budget. What he should do is compare what is happening now with some of the budgets that were presented by some of his own colleagues and try to be a little more objective in his criticism and a little more

positive about what is happening in the province, rather than being very negative. I just find it incredible for the fine member for Simcoe East to say these things.

Mr. McLean: If the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) had been listening to my last remarks, he would have heard what I said about budgeting. I know he is a former mayor of that municipality. Maybe he did not get into the budgeting process, but I was always involved in it.

I indicated that until two years ago the debt in this province for every man, woman and child was \$2,700. Today the debt for every man, woman and child is \$4,000. The deficit in this province is about \$37 billion. The government is adding another \$980 million to it. The budget the Treasurer brought in was not a budget that was clear of debt; he is adding \$980 million more to the deficit of the province.

When the member spoke about the \$2.2-billion deficit in the previous government's budgets—yes, in 1981 and 1982. When times are tough, that is when you accumulate some debt; when times are good, that is when you reduce your debt. Back in 1981 and 1982, the total deficit of this province was way down at \$11 billion to \$12 billion. Now it is up, as I said, at more than double that.

The member talks about no tax increases. Why should there be one this year when, over the last two years, we have had an almost 30 per cent tax increase? Why would the government want to increase it again? There is only a 4.1 per cent rise in the economy. This is the year there should have been a balanced budget, with the extra revenue the Treasurer has. Once you budget for those and raise people's income tax and receive the extra revenue, it never goes down; it always seems to keep going up. I just wanted to clarify that for the member for Waterloo North because of my budgetary experience.

Mr. Warner: I appreciate the opportunity to participate. Not only that, but the Treasurer promised me a response to my questions.

Mr. Wiseman: Not quite; to the best of his ability.

Mr. Warner: It was almost a promise. The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) heard it. He said he was going to respond to the best of his ability.

Mr. Wiseman: To the best of his ability; that is what he said.

Mr. Warner: I will not comment on that, but we will find out what the answers are later on.

Under this supply motion, which is a traditional opportunity to raise budgetary problems and financial concerns, I wish to raise four items. First, I am becoming increasingly concerned with what is happening to our community colleges. We are getting conflicting messages. We know there are problems. The government claims it has been quite generous to the colleges and that it recognizes some of the colleges are in a position where they should be expanding.

In my own area, for example, they announced that \$9.5 million over three years would go for the expansion of the Progress campus of Centennial College of Applied Arts and Technology, an expansion which the Speaker knows is needed. I do not think anyone questions the need for the expansion. The government is not providing the amount required for the expansion. The expansion, I believe, will cost approximately \$14 million; the government is prepared to spend \$9.5 million.

But leave that aside for a moment. On the very day they announce the expansion, based on increased enrolment, overcrowded conditions, greater demand for courses—on the very day they announce that money, the college announces the firing of 50 staff people.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker; you are reputed to have a very logical mind—

Mr. Breaugh: Who made that allegation?

Mr. Warner: That is what I understood. There are rumours that the Speaker has a logical mind.

1650

How on earth can the government justify expansion of a college based on increased enrolment and at the same time lay off 50 staff people? I do not understand that.

The question that was raised here to the minister, to which he could not respond, was, "Is it because of fiscal mismanagement in the college or is it because the government is not supplying a sufficient increase?" The minister says it is neither. He is satisfied that the college is being run properly and he is also satisfied that sufficient money is being provided.

Again, I test the Speaker's sense of what is reasonable and logical. It has to be one or the other. Either they are not managing the money properly or they do not have enough money. It is one or the other. Why is it that they are laying off staff? They have experienced an enrolment increase and they have experienced a demand for more courses.

I know the member for Waterloo North says, "Maybe that is an isolated case." What is the current terminology, a little blip on the screen? It is just an abnormality.

Hold on a minute. Let us take a look at Durham College, where we have a similar type of situation. Durham College has experienced an increased demand for courses. It is serving a high-growth area and there is an increased enrolment. I think there were only two colleges last year that experienced an enrolment increase. Durham was one and Centennial College was the other.

Again, lo and behold, 25 staff people were fired. The college claims 17 but the actual figure was 25. There were eight staff members who were threatened that if they did not sign the resignation form they would be fired, so they signed it clear of the date and they did not have to count those folks.

What is really bizarre in this case is that last September the college hired an extra 70 staff people and did not tell any of them that this could be an opportunity of less than one year at the college. Sure enough, later, out of the 70, 25 were let go.

To me that looks like bad management. The college claims it is not getting enough money. The increase that came through from the ministry was something in the neighbourhood of 4.6 per cent and its increase in expenditures was 7.3 per cent, so there is a shortfall. Again, it has to be one or the other.

The minister does not have any answers. He is quite happy that things are running smoothly and the government is handing out lots of money.

Are there just two examples? No, there are more. We turn to Sheridan College.

Mr. Epp: There are a lot of people in Ontario. You get a lot of examples.

Mr. Warner: There are a lot of people out there being hurt. There are a lot of colleges that are either not getting enough money or not being run properly, one or the other. The folks who are suffering are the staff people who are being fired, and the students are suffering because part of this little cutback that is going on in the college is a reduction in the number of student instruction hours. That will have a negative effect on the quality of education those students are receiving.

The minister just sort of blissfully says—in fact, his precise words to me were, "Everything is going swimmingly in the colleges." That is what the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) said. I have news for him. There are a few folks about to drown.

The students are unhappy at Centennial and a number of other places because of courses that are being cut and because of the reduction in the student instruction hours, and staff are quite disturbed by the firings.

Worse than that, and I think what probably is the heart of the whole problem, is that the college is not a place where the fresh air of democracy has blown through the corridors. For the most part, the colleges are run by the administrators, with no opportunity for the staff—when I say “staff,” I mean the teaching and the nonteaching staff—or the students to be involved in a meaningful way in the setting of the budget, in how the courses are put together, in determining what is appropriate in terms of the student-teacher ratio, etc. The basic nuts and bolts of running a college are, for the most part, fairly secretive processes very firmly controlled by the president of the college and senior staff people, in some cases with some involvement of the boards of governors.

It is not an open system. That is no secret to anyone. When we look at the Skolnik report and the Pitman report, we realize there has been a hue and cry for some time to democratize the college system. This government has failed to take it seriously. The best the minister could offer was that a staff person and a student should be sitting on an advisory council with a voice but no vote. The last time I looked up any sort of treatise on democracy, it involved voting. I do not know how on earth one would expect a democratic system in any enterprise to function without a vote, but somehow this minister feels that students and teachers can have meaningful roles in the running of their colleges without having votes.

There is more on this and as time goes on I think we will find, in virtually every college across this province, a lot of very upset people. The college system is in need of repair. The minister just sits on the sidelines and whistles about things going swimmingly.

I should not leave the college area without at least a brief remark regarding the minister's failure to protect the Centre for Labour Studies at Humber College. He has taken the rather bizarre position that it is entirely up to the college and whatever it decides is fine. What he fails to remind himself of is that the colleges have a mandate to be responsible to and to respond to the community. That is their function, and that is really carefully spelled out. When a college fails to respond to the community and the communi-

ty's needs, the minister has a responsibility to make sure the college responds.

The example I used was the dental hygienist program at Durham College, which the Durham College administrators, in their so-called wisdom, decided they were going to eliminate. The minister was convinced, I assume not just by myself but by others, especially in the community and from the Ontario Dental Association, that what the college was doing was irresponsible and that it was not responding to the needs in the community. Based on that, the minister interfered and told Durham it would not be allowed to cut that program.

Interjection.

Mr. Warner: Not the Minister of Health; the Minister of Colleges and Universities. In fact, in that case, he exercised the responsibility rightfully and properly, as he is supposed to do. In the case of the Centre for Labour Studies at Humber, he simply absents himself from the scene. Quite frankly, while that absentia may well be in keeping with his anti-labour feelings, it is not a responsible course of action for him to take.

The member for Simcoe East, who spoke ahead of me, touched on a couple of points under skills development. I want to also mention that I am quite disturbed by what the new government has not done. There is no question that the former government would never bring in an apprenticeship agreement in which all employers were obligated to participate. That idea was tested year after year. The Progressive Conservative government rejected that notion. Obviously, it was their independence to do that.

1700

We know the success from West Germany in terms of involving all employers and all unions in an apprenticeship program. We know how successful that has been. This government rejects that notion too.

Part of the price of rejecting it is that while we have high unemployment, especially in northern Ontario, we will continue to import skilled workers from offshore. We will continue, and the government will allow employers to advertise offshore for carpenters and bricklayers, tool and die makers and other trades while we have a college system with 22 colleges and while we have high unemployment, especially among our young people.

Youth unemployment, I remind us all again quite painfully, is approximately double whatever the unemployment rate is for an area. In some areas, especially in northern Ontario, we are

looking at youth unemployment rates in the neighbourhood of 15 to 20 per cent.

Care of seniors: When the government made an announcement today, I will tell all members I did my best to control my anger. Words fail to describe how disappointed I am with the government's approach. I do not particularly like to stand up and say, "I did this and I did that," but one member—in this case myself—with the assistance of a researcher from the legislative research department spent the best part of a year canvassing and pulling out information from 26 different countries, mostly western European countries. We picked and chose out of the vast array of programs available from those countries and put them together in a format which seemed to fit what our needs are in Ontario.

I came up with a bill, and I dare say that bill could be implemented as it is. It is off at committee and, of course, a committee in its wisdom, based on public hearings, could adjust the bill in whatever way seems appropriate. Basically the structure is there. It took two people to do it.

The Liberal Party is the government. It has thousands of civil servants. It has the ability to tap into some of the brightest and sharpest minds in the country. It has resources at its command that I do not have and the best it can do after two years is to come up with a pilot project, and a pilot project, I remind all members, that is limited.

I do not know how, in the name of anything that is reasonable, this government could be satisfied with that. It should be ashamed. The minister should be ashamed for standing up and making the announcement he made today. After two years, that is the best he can do.

This is not a new problem. The solutions I presented in my bill are not new solutions. These are solutions that are tried and tested in other jurisdictions, and we know they work. All this government has to do is to co-ordinate it.

I am flabbergasted that after two years that is all this government could come up with.

The problem is not going to go away. The problem is going to get worse. We look at the demographics and we know we have more elderly people and people living longer. The percentage of elderly people in our communities continues to increase, and the best the government can come up with is a pilot project in six ridings, five of them Liberal ridings, and that is not by accident. We know that. I guess when the Tories left office they must have left their little

administrative manual on pork-barrelling behind, and these folks have updated it.

The last item I wish to raise—and I am pleased to see that the Minister of Health is here because this is a message directly for him. By now, perhaps he has received my report based on three visits to Scarborough General Hospital. I spent a total of approximately 10 hours on three separate occasions visiting the hospital and interviewing staff and patients: doctors, nurses, administrators, board members and patients. Two and a half hours of that time was spent in the emergency ward documenting the serious problems there. When the minister reads the report I imagine that, like me, he will be horrified by what is happening.

Scarborough General, as the minister probably knows, has the second busiest emergency ward in Canada. More than 100,000 people go through that emergency ward per year and, clearly, five per cent of those 100,000 people require urgent care. They are mostly cardiac patients. That emergency ward is operating in a dangerous situation, and they know that. Comments were made to me by staff to the effect that: "I am surprised that no one has died simply waiting for care. I am surprised that there has not been a major catastrophe here. We have up to 45 people in one night on stretchers in an area that will accommodate 15 people. The situation is critical."

The hospital—and I give the hospital credit—came up with a plan, not just on its own but in conjunction with the three other Scarborough hospitals on a co-ordinating committee. They used outside consultants. The plan is very imaginative in that it not only provides hospital services that are located there but also provides services that go out into the community. There is a community outreach, which I know the minister supports. I know he supports that concept. It is not simply institutional care.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do you want more money for hospitals, David?

Mr. Warner: Yes, the money that is required. The minister knows what the price tag is—it is \$100 million—

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is \$110 million.

Mr. Warner: —and he knows that the programs we are talking about, including the geriatric team, are programs that work in the community as well as in the hospital.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Community-based service providers might not be happy.

Mr. Warner: Community? That is what we are talking about. Before he makes an off-the-cuff remark that he might regret later on, the minister should take a look at the plan which will co-ordinate community-based programs along with the proper use of the institution.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I merely indicated that community-based providers do not always like being co-ordinated out of hospitals.

Mr. Warner: Both will be done, but it will only be done if we get financial support from this government. If nothing else, there are two parts of that plan which require immediate attention. First is the emergency ward, which obviously is in a very serious situation: that situation should not be tolerated. Second is the care of the elderly: the chronic care beds, the support for the geriatric team and the support for the day programs. There are some good geriatric day programs that are functioning, but they cannot do it in a closet.

Among other things, when I visited the Crockford Pavilion there was not even a privacy room where the family—

Hon. Mr. Elston: How big do you want us to build this hospital?

Mr. Warner: Pardon?

Hon. Mr. Elston: How big is the expansion of this hospital?

Mr. Warner: The minister has to take a look at the plans. What I did for him was to supply him with my report. I am sure the detailed plans for the hospital and the community portion of it are already in his hands.

The problem the minister faces, quite frankly, is with the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council, because it has some old thinking on it. They do not seem to realize and appreciate that Scarborough is a city of 500,000 people. They seem to believe that the services should be provided in downtown Toronto.

1710

Mr. D. S. Cooke: How do you think we feel in Windsor? That is what they say to us in Windsor too. You have to go to Toronto.

Mr. Warner: You should come to Toronto? Well, the world does not begin and end in Toronto. That may be a surprise to the folks in the ministry—it certainly is a surprise to the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council—but a city of 500,000 people deserves to have certain services. I think it is inappropriate for the health council to say those services should be located in downtown Toronto. I think that is wrong.

I am not suggesting for a moment that those services have to be delivered next year or next

month. What I am asking for is a commitment and a timetable, to say: "Yes, we agree with the plans. Yes, we are prepared to pay X dollars over this period of time." I do not think that is unreasonable, but I have heard nothing from the government, and that is what bothers me.

I know other members wish to participate in this debate, so I will be taking my place but, in conclusion, I wish to emphasize in regard to these four items I have raised, the colleges, skills development, care of seniors and the Scarborough General Hospital, that there are many, many more. The list is long of where this government has talked reasonably well, but there is very little action and the dollars do not match the words. I find that terribly disturbing. I guess all we can say is that we have two Tory parties in the House.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I just have a short intervention, as was the intervention by our colleague the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner), particularly concerning his vision of funding of the health care system.

I take his advice and the stand of his party that, in fact, we should be expanding our institutional sector, namely, the Scarborough General Hospital, and expanding the role of the institution in providing health care. I might indicate that it does provide us with some interesting questions to ask ourselves as we attempt to make our funding system more flexible and direct more money into community-based services, where we believe there is a genuine and real benefit for patient care.

It might be helpful, if the member, in making his point that we should allocate much more money—in this case I think it is about a \$110-million project that he speaks about—might suggest to us how we find, at the same time, the flexibility to add more services in the community. I know there have been some good words spoken by his party about its commitment to community-based services, but his intervention here seems to indicate that its position is quite the contrary.

I would ask and invite his intervention to try to remedy the not only apparent but also rather obvious contradiction in the position of policy as between the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere and, often, the words spoken by his colleague, who is present with us today, the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke).

By the way, we have also heard on occasion the leader of his party indicate that we should not be putting any more money whatsoever into hospitals. In fact, I remember a bit of a criticism

that was levelled at this minister not that long ago when we funded the operating budgets of hospitals at a higher level. Perhaps this fine gentleman could provide us with some insight into the obvious conflict he has just raised.

Mr. Breagh: I would like the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere to expand a little bit. It appears the government is abandoning hospitals and does not care to fund any institutions. I would like to hear the member's comments because I know he has talked on previous occasions, for example, about the need for a dialysis unit at that very same hospital. I would advocate that somewhere between here and Kingston there has to be some provision for services.

The minister in his little intervention seems to be abandoning hospitals. Is the member in agreement with him? Does he think the minister is actually suggesting we are going to put a dialysis unit out in the community now? I wonder whether he has some idea of maybe putting it on the back of a pickup truck and running it up and down Highway 401. Maybe that is what he is trying to get at.

The Park Plaza Hotel is now becoming a hospital, I am told. I would like the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere to take a moment and try to compare what he is trying to do for his own local hospital, which seems to me to be quite a reasonable thing for a member to do. I understand that the Minister of Health is attacking him for trying to support his local hospital. I understand that the Minister of Health is abandoning the hospitals in their time of need and really has no time for the people of Scarborough-Ellesmere and their needs.

I would like the member to respond and try to get on the record again today the need for the dialysis unit, the need for proper funding for the hospital and the need for a good mix of community-based care and institutional care. Maybe he would like to put on the record some comments about the total abandonment now of the hospitals by the Minister of Health. That is quite a phenomenal thing. I suppose he is up with a \$200-a-plate dinner now at the new hospital at the Park Plaza. I would like the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere to respond to some of those interventions by the minister.

Mr. Pollock: I just want to put it on the record that if there is going to be any dialysis machine between Toronto and Kingston, it should be in one of the Peterborough hospitals. People from that area have to drive all the way to Toronto or to Kingston to get that kind of service. It is quite a

handicap for them to drive that far. There are people from the Campbellford area and from the Bancroft area who have to drive, as I say, to Kingston or to Toronto, and it is a real burden.

I do not want to knock the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere's efforts to get a haemo-dialysis machine in his area, but let us face it, in Scarborough they can get public transportation right to downtown Toronto. It is a lot different ball game to come all the way from Peterborough. Even the people from the Oshawa or Durham area could go north once they get Highway 115 fixed. They could drive north on a four-lane highway to one of the Peterborough hospitals and get that service there. I think there is a real need and I think Peterborough is the place it should be.

I urge the Minister of Health to take that into consideration and study it carefully. I have already presented petitions to this Legislature to have that haemo-dialysis machine in one of the Peterborough hospitals. I understand one of those hospitals is going to be expanding in the near future and that is where that haemo-dialysis machine should be.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there further comments and questions for the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere? There being none, reply, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: I would not pretend for a moment that Liberals are capable of understanding the complexities of these difficult situations. There is no contradiction and the minister should understand that. I think the member for Oshawa is right. The minister is making noises that he is going to cut back on hospitals and cut back on care. The next thing we hear will be like the statements of the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) about closing them.

At the same time the minister says, "We support community-based programs," but we do not see any money for those community-based programs. Now we are left with the worst of both worlds; no money to repair a hospital that is in desperate need of repair and does not have the capacity to serve this blossoming population in Scarborough.

I remind the minister that it has been a very short period of time in which the population has gone from 100,000 to 500,000, and the services have not kept up. We have an emergency ward where people literally cannot be served and are there for two or three days. Heart patients, people who have had heart attacks, are lying on stretchers in a hallway for two or three days. Not

enough monitors; there are more patients than there are monitors.

1720

The member is right about the renal dialysis program. The proposal that was put forward is one that is community based. The proposal is for a 10-bed unit that serves 100 patients. They are shown how to use the equipment and they can use it at home. We are talking about a program that serves the community and that is using a hospital as a place of interaction.

We have the plans that involve the community and make use of the facility. We need the money. The government is not prepared to give money to either the hospital or the community-based program. We have had nothing out of this government.

Hon. Mr. Elston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: It is apparent that the honourable gentleman still has not been able to explain to us his obvious conflict of policy and programs with the official party platform of the New Democratic Party.

The Deputy Speaker: No, this is not an appropriate point of order.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is a point of interest at least.

Mr. Breaugh: Could I speak to this point of order?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. That was not an appropriate point of order. There is no additional comment necessary.

Mr. Epp: I guess what I want to say is that the Minister of Health wanted to draw to the attention of all members, and very rightly so, the discrepancy or the contradiction in the position of the previous speaker, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere, and that of the New Democratic Party. The contradiction is that in one breath they are recommending supporting the institutions, such as the hospitals, and in the next breath they are trying to deinstitutionalize a lot of things. That important distinction—

Mr. Warner: I knew you would not understand it. Do you want to throw the patients out in the street? Herb, you have gone mad. Clean out the wards. Put all the heart patients out on the street.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Put him out in the street.

Mr. Epp: I agree. I am most happy to be able to participate in this debate and to have an opportunity to give my support to the budgetary measures in the interim supply motion we have before us today.

I would like to concentrate on a number of initiatives this government has taken. I am particularly happy to see the great number of improvements and reforms that have been initiated by this budget and that are inherent in the budgetary supply motion before us.

I speak on behalf of the residents of Waterloo North, who are very supportive of what they have seen this government doing during the last two years with respect to the raising of moneys, and particularly with respect to the way the expenditures have taken place.

In the field of agriculture, we know that a number of people in our rural areas continue to face difficult times. Our government and my colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) are continuing to address the ongoing financial concerns of the agricultural community. Although the leader of the official opposition chose to ignore it in his address a few weeks ago, a 72 per cent increase in farm funding since our government took office two years ago has been implemented.

Our government has again shown courage by replacing the 60 per cent tax rebate on farm property tax with a 100 per cent rebate on farm land and outbuildings. I know that a certain former minister under a certain former government had at one time accepted a similar proposal but, unfortunately, he did not have the courage to carry through with that proposal in the face of opposition from some of his colleagues.

In addition, we will be continuing to provide benefits under our highly successful family farm rebate interest rate reduction program by maintaining support at the 100 per cent level. This will go a long way to assist those farmers in need to continue their operations while weathering these tough economic times. Also, the new \$50-million farm management safety and repair program is an initiative whose time has come. The feedback I have received from the rural areas of my riding has been very positive indeed with respect to the particular budgetary measures of this government.

The Deputy Speaker: Excuse me. I might point out that the previous speakers, although a long distance away from the supply motion we have, did usually tie it in in some way. I presume the member for Waterloo North will be tying in his comments on the farm tax rebate with the supply motion.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I want to read the resolution to you because you will notice that it says: "The Treasurer of Ontario will be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants and

other necessary payments." These payments include a variety of things and concern the broad budgetary measures of this government. You will understand that I was speaking about budgets and about interim supply, and it relates to a good number of expenditures that the government has.

I notice you nodding your head in agreement, Mr. Speaker, so I do not have any difficulty with proceeding with my comments.

The new \$50-million farm management safety and repair program is an initiative whose time has come. The feedback I received from the residents of Waterloo North has been most positive and most supportive. I know the people in your riding, the great riding of Oxford, are also in support of it. I have also spoken to some of those farmers who are in support of it, so you will understand this, Mr. Speaker. Farm safety is a priority of this government, and assistance in paying for often costly machinery repairs will be a welcome area of support to those farmers.

I would also like to salute today the Treasurer's initiatives which continue to build upon our educational system, which is presently second to none. Again, in criticizing the budgetary measures of this government which the opposition wishes were their own, they have selectively ignored the raw facts.

For instance, there is \$9 billion this year budgeted for primary and secondary education alone, equivalent to \$47 million every school day. I ask the members opposite to let that figure sink in for a few minutes and tell me that this government is not addressing the improvement of the quality of education in Ontario as a top priority.

Of particular significance to me and my constituency is the major increase in capital spending for colleges and universities. Having two world-class, post-secondary institutions in my riding alone—Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo—I can tell members that never have they been happier with the kind of support they are getting from the provincial government. They are two great universities, which are tremendously happy with this support.

Let me tell members that, since I have been in this hallowed place for 10 years, there have been complaints about every previous budget that ever came forward and about supplementary supply motions. I never heard one this time and I have been in my riding many times. You can appreciate that, Mr. Speaker. They have never been happier to see \$100 million for capital spending allocated for the current fiscal year,

double the funding provided as recently as two years ago.

This money is well appreciated and will be well spent on much-needed renovations and repairs to buildings and facilities which were never before possible due to the former government's neglect. Never have they been happier than to see \$5 million to reduce the tuition fees for highly qualified foreign graduate students. As world-class institutions, this government takes great pride in the fact that students now flock from all over the globe to attend our schools to receive top-rate instruction in top-rate universities. Indeed, the University of Waterloo, whose motto is "You and the World," clearly epitomizes the relationship this government has with the post-secondary institutions, a relationship in tune with today's educational needs and a relationship that also recognizes education as essential to our long-term economic growth.

1730

Small business continues to be an economic stimulus as a vital source of employment growth and opportunity throughout Ontario. Indeed, small businesses currently account for 98 per cent of all companies and 50 per cent of private sector employment in this province. Of the 304,000 small businesses presently operating in Ontario, 92 per cent are in the service sector alone.

Recognizing this, the Treasurer has expanded the small business development corporation program to include a broad range of corporations that provide business services to other businesses. Employment agencies, advertising agencies, management-consulting services and accounting and bookkeeping services are among the many service-oriented businesses that now may take advantage of the SBDC program in raising much-needed equity capital, particularly in the early stages of their operations.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you, a person very learned in the law, having dealt with numerous, countless, small businesses and having advocated to some of them that they should get involved in small business development corporations and other small businesses, are proud of the program this government has supported for so many years and the kind of advice our fine civil servants are giving to our businesses out there.

Mr. Cousens: You are just wandering around and taking your time saying nothing.

Mr. Epp: I know the official opposition, which is supporting this program, does so proudly. I am glad to see that.

In striving to achieve the healthy balance of which I spoke earlier, the balance between stimulating Ontario's long-term economic viability and responsible social reform, our government continues to support a thriving and accessible health care system. I am proud to be a part of a government that has committed more than \$11 billion this fiscal year for health care programs.

Earlier, I commented on the \$9 billion that is going to education. Now \$11 billion is going for health care programs, almost two thirds of the budget of this great province of ours. I know the members opposite are in support of what this government is doing with regard to education, health, small businesses and numerous other areas of concern.

Again, I must refer to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) selectively ignoring the bottom-line facts; in this case, the fact that this amount represents more than \$1,200 for every man, woman and child in Ontario, a tremendous figure of expenditure that this government is supporting. Instead, the one-time master of negotiation chose to channel his energies in arguing about how the government was going to settle current fee negotiations with the medical profession. We all know how he settled it and every taxpayer in Ontario is still paying for it.

My colleague the Minister of Health is to be heralded for how he has responsibly managed our health care over the past two years. Maintaining quality care in the face of rising demand is indeed a great challenge and I am confident that our government is already making great strides in ensuring that a cost-effective system will be maintained over a long period of time.

One such avenue towards this end is the encouragement of further expansion of community health centres across the province. The 12 existing community health centres currently operating in Ontario have a proven track record in providing cost-effective, high-quality treatment. In many areas of the province, community health centres allow an accessible alternative for a number of health care services traditionally provided in institutional settings. My riding of Waterloo North, for example, although located in fair proximity to hospitals in Kitchener, would be well served by a community-oriented centre for those in outlying areas requiring medical treatment.

I know the Minister of Health is paying close attention to the concerns Waterloo North has. I know the minister himself is a major proponent of the further development of this community-

based approach, as evidenced by his recent announcement of \$500,000 to community health centres to review how we might develop specialized programs for seniors. Such reforms are important to me and to the people in Waterloo North. The further development of such community-based facilities in my riding as well as other areas across the province represents an initiative I wholeheartedly endorse.

It makes me particularly happy because it makes the citizens of Waterloo happy to support these particular budgetary measures, both the interim supply that is before us today and the budget that we will be voting on some time in the future. It makes me particularly happy that everybody in the province is benefiting from the kinds of measures this government has brought forth, whether they be in health care, education or helping small business; in measures or responsibilities in the Ministry of Community and Social Services; in reform measures introduced in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations; in higher education, recreation, natural resources or northern development—whatever the case is.

I know the responsible members of this Legislature see the budgetary measures of this government as being both creative and supportive of the kind of lifestyle that the people of the province want. I therefore encourage them to support the motion before us today.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments of the member for Waterloo North?

Mr. Cousens: Does the honourable member really mean all that garbage he just talked about?

Mr. Mancini: I thank my colleague the member for Waterloo North for bringing out once again many of the initiatives that have been taken by this government over the past number of months, and in particular the initiatives that were taken in the recent budget of the Treasurer.

I am very surprised to see, as I always am, the opposition we receive from members across the floor whenever there is good news to be told. I can understand their criticisms over things with which they disagree on a philosophical basis, but when the Treasurer is able, in a fiscally responsible way, to increase the funding of the very valuable and important institutions we have here in the province, as was explained very well by my colleague in his speech just a few moments ago, I am surprised at the opposition he receives from the members across the floor. I am surprised at the way in which they always seem to deride good news when the government is able to pronounce good news. I want to congratulate my

colleague from Waterloo North for being able again to state very clearly many of the things this government has been able to do.

Mr. Breagh: I want the member for Waterloo North to recognize that the only member in here who is going to congratulate him is the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini).

The Deputy Speaker: Comments and questions? If not, reply; the member for Waterloo North.

1740

Mr. Epp: I am pleased by the positive comments that came forth from the member for Essex South. He is known as a very progressive and positive person. That is why we hear that. I think members of this Legislature should note and the public should note that after the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) made his garbage comment, he immediately rushed out and there are only three of his colleagues in support of him at this time. It is very understandable that all his colleagues would leave, except maybe three of them, after him making that very negative and unreasonable comment. It is quite obvious that it was completely out of context and was not necessary or accurate.

Mr. Pollock: Before I get into the debate, I want to place on the record the fact that I am disappointed in the announcement by a lot of my colleagues that they will not be seeking re-election in the next provincial election. Of course, one person I am really concerned about is my colleague, friend and neighbour the member for Peterborough (Mr. Turner). John and June Turner are highly respected in the riding of Peterborough. I know they are going to be missed when the next provincial election is called. I am going to take over a portion of that riding when the next election is called. I have talked to people in that area and they have nothing but praise for the member for Peterborough.

Along with the member for Peterborough, there are people such as the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson), the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier), the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), the member for York West (Mr. Leluk), the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) and all those others who have made a real contribution to this assembly.

I would also like to mention that I was surprised at the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) when he gave the wrap-up speech on the speech from the throne. He spent practically all his time ridiculing the Progressive Conservatives rather than dwelling for some time on that

speech from the throne. It is not really that member's style to make comments like that.

Getting back to the budget, there are several points I would like to touch on.

An hon. member: No, we are not on that.

The Deputy Speaker: We are really on the interim supply motion.

Mr. Pollock: Okay. Let us first look at the sales tax exemption on prepared foods under \$4. I am sure that exemption is appreciated by the fast food outlets and also by their clientele. However, it does very little for the family restaurant. When you could get a sit-down meal at a family restaurant for less than \$4 was back in the days when you could buy the top-of-the-line Ford, Chevrolet or Plymouth for less than \$5,000. The family restaurant gets little or nothing out of this budget. There are a lot of them in the riding of Hastings-Peterborough and they provide a lot of employment there.

Now I would like to talk about the government's spending priorities for a moment. To further economic development in eastern Ontario, the Premier has created yet another bureaucracy to "co-ordinate business-related programs." The eastern Ontario community economic development program has been allocated \$25 million to spend over the period of the next five years. Most of this money will undoubtedly go to pay bureaucrats. In contrast, the Liberals have given \$30 million to help build the domed stadium in downtown Toronto.

In the transportation budget, eastern Ontario again saw how little the Liberal government cares. Of the \$290-million, three-year program to "upgrade and expand the transportation system," the greater Toronto area received close to half, much of which will be used solely for the Highway 407 project that is to build a road across the top of Toronto.

The Treasurer allotted \$50 million to provide assistance to agriculture in several fields. Some of that was to provide assistance for grain storage, which is not totally new. The previous government, at one point in time, had assistance for grain storage facilities and farmers are still able to purchase these units and claim the sales tax rebate on them.

This assistance is \$2,500 per grain unit, and in rough estimates this program would not cost over \$1 million. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food decided to subsidize only grain storage units. What about storage facilities for other crops? I am sure that those people who build blue silos, Crophandler and Harvest Store, would also appreciate some assistance. Those who build

sealed cement silos and ordinary silos for crops such as corn and hay silage would wonder why they got left out.

Another part of this program is to subsidize safety equipment. I am in support of this particular program. I have lobbied for six and a half years and I think this money would be well spent, although again, we have little information on the program.

I have said that I am very concerned about safety. I supported the private member's Bill 149 brought forward by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), who wanted this bill to go to committee so we could discuss these deaths in the work place. There is approximately one worker who gets killed every working day in the work place and I agree that this bill should go to committee so employers and employees could present briefs so we could cut down on the deaths in the work place.

I am certain you would hear some startling comments. I have seen men use cutting torches and welding equipment without safety goggles, many machines being operated without safety shields, and the list goes on and on.

The forest industry, in conjunction with the Workers' Compensation Board, has a program called the new experimental experience rating program. This program states that if an employee has an accident, the employer's rate of workers' compensation goes up. Some loggers have had their rates increase 300 per cent. If employers are rated this way, why not have some mechanism in place to rate employees also?

If you are an employer and have an employee riding in your car or truck with you and he is over 16, he is responsible for using his safety belt. If you have an employee who is 10, 20 or 30 miles away on a job, the employer seems to still be responsible.

The subsidizing of safety equipment on farms could well be a step in the right direction because in 1981, 40 people were killed on the farm; in 1982, 45; in 1983, 48; in 1984, 50; and the list goes on.

I am looking forward with interest to see what criteria are used for the safety equipment subsidy. I question whether it will cost the \$50 million allocated for this program.

During the debate on my resolution on the farm property tax rebate program to raise the rebate to 70 per cent—which passed unanimously, by the way—some of the flaws in that current system came to light. The Liberal member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) made mention of the fact that corporations which lease

out land for farm use receive the rebate. I agree that it is questionable that corporations such as Stelco should receive in the neighbourhood of \$55,000 in tax benefits.

However, under the new system, if Stelco owns a lot of farm land and no houses, it will receive a lot more than \$55,000 in rebates.

Farmers with a large house and small acreage will lose on this new system being proposed by the government. There is no question that if you have a small house and a lot of land, you will be the winner.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has estimated that this program will put an additional \$18 million back in the hands of farmers. Under the new proposal, with the increased rebate of 70 per cent, the farmers would have got back more than \$20 million and this money would have been distributed in a more equitable manner.

1750

Finally, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) went on at great length about the contaminated soil in his riding. He said that according to tests, the soil was safe, but continued to pat himself on the back for the removal of it. He also stated that the former member for the riding congratulated him for moving the soil. The former member felt it was his divine right to take that particular contaminated soil up and dump it in my riding. The member seems to get a kick out of telling people the soil was safe, yet it had to be removed.

It seems to be the attitude of a lot of urban people that they have the right to dump their garbage in the rural areas, pollute the wells in our rural areas and cause all kinds of problems and hardships for the rural community.

It is my understanding that the ministry bought these houses in the Malvern subdivision and then turned around and rented them out to people.

We have the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) promoting landfill sites and, at the same time, the staff of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications telling people that if a well is damaged by highway construction, they do not recommend that a new well be dug within one mile of a garbage dump or landfill site. It is no wonder that people oppose having a landfill site near their property. When the economy is reasonably good, the government should have taken a major step into recycling garbage.

That concludes my debate.

Mr. Philip: We have only a few minutes left in the debate today, but I would like to deal with an issue that I have dealt with before in this House—and deal with it in some detail since I do have some additional research on the matter—and

that is, the problems my constituents have faced as a result of the inability of both this government and the previous government to deal with the inequities of the property tax system.

The Treasurer will be aware of the letters I have written to him and indeed the research I have tabled with both him and the former Minister of Revenue, the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory), which showed that not only are taxes inequitable in the city of Etobicoke, but when it comes to condominiums, that condominiums are overtaxed and indeed that moderate-priced condominiums are more heavily overtaxed than those of a luxury nature. Following the extensive research I tabled in the House and, indeed, a number of lawsuits, the former minister had to make certain changes, at least vis-à-vis condominiums, but despite these changes we still have tremendous inequities in the system.

I want to deal with those in a minute but I would simply like to deal with the fact that in opposition, the Liberals, along with us, called for various forms of property tax reform, and yet we still have not seen that. We have seen one paper after another, one study after another and indeed the member for Waterloo North has just been supervising and co-ordinating still another study for the present Liberal government.

There have been various proposals made over the years, some of them fairly simple to implement, that I have talked about with the present Treasurer and Minister of Revenue, such as the fact that if a person shows the initiative to improve his own house and is staying in that house, provided he improves it up to a certain dollar amount—it could be \$10,000 or it could be \$15,000—it would not be reassessed. In my area, I have many people who work in the construction trades, and to me, an improvement in the home certainly does not indicate any improvement in family income. Indeed, it is often when the worker is unemployed that he has the free time in which he can improve his home.

If we look at the property tax system in Etobicoke, we see a grave inequity between those areas in which the middle-class people live and those in which the more affluent people live. Indeed, if we were to take the 1984 market values in Etobicoke, using option 2, which was proposed by Metropolitan Toronto, we see some interesting figures. Ward 5, namely Etobicoke north or, if you want, the Rexdale area, and ward 1 are the most heavily taxed as a proportion of market value. Indeed, if we look at those figures and if we take class 1, for example—I have so

many tables here that I have just misplaced one of them—essentially, what we will find is that if there were a reassessment within Etobicoke, we would have an 81.5 per cent decrease in ward 1, with 18.5 per cent of the units being increased. In ward 5, which covers most of the riding I represent, we would actually have a 97.5 per cent decrease in property taxes, compared to a 2.5 per cent increase.

It is interesting to compare that with the affluent middle part of Etobicoke, where we would see that in ward 2, which would be the Kingsway area and Bloor Street, where the \$1-million homes are located—and there are a few of those; certainly \$500,000 homes—we would find there would be a decrease of only 57.1 per cent, as compared to an increase of 42.9 per cent.

If we contrast the tax increases that would result, in ward 2 we have a 42.9 per cent increase compared to a 2.5 per cent increase in ward 5, Etobicoke north or Rexdale. If we take those figures, it seems fairly clear what has happened is that we have grave inequities in our system. If we look at Etobicoke, there are inequities not only in condominiums versus other forms of housing but also in areas; namely, that the very north end and the very south end are overtaxed. I suggest to the Minister of Revenue that remedies have to be taken to alleviate that.

Even if we accept that some gains have been made for condominiums, we still end up with some of the inequities that are left over from the previous government because of the bureaucratic system.

On March 17—this happened to Islington 2000, which is a fairly affluent condominium; one can imagine what is happening to some of the others—Mr. Walker, the chairman of the assessment appeals committee, wrote to the Treasurer and said: “Attached is a copy of our file concerning the partial refund of taxes for 1981-82. These refunds arise because of a reduction of the assessments following the ministry’s abandonment on December 8, 1986, of its appeal to the courts made in March of 1985.” I was referring to that earlier. “The city of Etobicoke is unable to process these refunds because the Ontario Municipal Board has not yet issued an order to do so. That board is delayed because your ministry”—in other words, the Ministry of Revenue, the Treasurer’s ministry—“has not calculated the revised assessments.”

We have a system where not only are inequities perpetuated, but where, even after some remedy is found, the bureaucratic system helps to prevent the paying out of moneys that are

owed to home owners. I suggest to the member that, as we have done in the western provinces, the property tax system is the most inequitable of all forms of taxation.

On motion by Mr. Philip, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would like to indicate the business to the House in the coming week. Much to my surprise, interim supply was not completed and we would like to be able to call it at some convenient time next week or perhaps even later, with appropriate notice.

On Monday, June 15, we will deal with third reading of Bill 62, retail sales tax; Bill 63,

income tax; Bill 154, pay equity; Bill 190, mental health, followed by committee of the whole on Bill 34, freedom of information.

For the remainder of the week we will consider legislation from the following list as time is available: second reading of Bill 81, Metro Toronto police commission; Bill 56, auto insurance; Bill 79, occupational health and safety, with committee of the whole dealing with Bill 170, pension benefits.

There may be changes and additions to this order of business following the usual consultations among the House leaders.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
25	1250	1	5	of program." We want to make sure that the program has some flexibility. He went on to say: "We should move away from the notion that

CONTENTS

Thursday, June 11, 1987

Private members' public business

Municipal-industrial strategy for abatement , resolution 17, Mr. Gillies, Mrs. Grier, Mr. Poirier, Mr. Partington, Mr. Charlton, Mr. South, agreed to	1283
Referendum Act , Bill 75, Mr. Runciman, Mr. Breaugh, Mr. Polsinelli, Mr. Cousens, Mr. Warner, Mr. Offer, second reading negatived	1292

Members' statements

Stabilization payments , Mr. Stevenson	1303
Highway construction , Mr. Laughren, Mr. Cousens	1303
Firestone Canada Inc. , Mr. Mackenzie	1304
Portugal Day , Mr. Callahan	1304
Hospital funding , Mr. McLean	1304
Transit services , Mr. Breaugh	1305

Statement by the ministry

One-stop access , Hon. Mr. Van Horne	1305
---	------

Responses

One-stop access , Mr. Cousens, Mr. D. S. Cooke, Mr. Warner	1306
---	------

Oral questions

Trade with United States , Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1308
Lennox generating station , Mr. Andrewes, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1309
Access to health services , Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Elston	1310
Natural gas pricing , Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1312
University enrolment , Mr. Eves, Hon. Mr. Sorbara, Mr. Allen	1313
Automobile industry , Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1315
Rent regulation , Mr. Grande, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1315
Child care , Mr. Callahan, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1316
Health funding , Mr. Andrewes, Hon. Mr. Elston	1316
Access to health services , Mr. R. F. Johnston, Hon. Mr. Elston, Mr. D. S. Cooke	1317
Ontario student assistance program , Mr. Eves, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1317
Highway construction , Mr. Laughren, Hon. Mr. Fulton, Mr. Harris	1318
Hospital funding , Mr. Mackenzie, Hon. Mr. Elston	1319
Correctional institutions , Mr. Cureatz, Hon. Mr. Keyes	1319

Petition

Animals for research , Mr. Philip	1320
--	------

Motions

Private members' public business , Hon. Mr. Nixon, agreed to	1320
Select committee on health , Hon. Mr. Nixon, agreed to	1321
Standing orders , Hon. Mr. Nixon, agreed to	1321

Second reading

Beef Cattle Marketing Amendment Act , Bill 77, Hon. Mr. Riddell, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Pollock, agreed to	1321
--	------

Government motion

Interim supply, resolution 10, Hon. Mr. Nixon, Mr. Warner, Mr. McLean, Mr. Epp, Hon. Mr. Elston, Mr. Breaugh, Mr. Pollock, Mr. Mancini, Mr. Pollock, Mr. Philip, adjourned 1327

Other business

Recess 1302

Visitors, Mr. Speaker 1303

Baseball game, Mr. Harris 1303

Member's anniversary, Mr. Mancini 1305

Tabling of information, Mr. Harris, Hon. Mr. Nixon 1320

Business of the House, Hon. Mr. Nixon 1343

Adjournment 1343

Erratum 1343

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Breugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC)
Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)
Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)
Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)
Partington, P. (Brock PC)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)
Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Polsinelli, C. (Yorkview L)
Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)
Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development (York North L)
South, L. (Frontenac-Addington L)
Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio (London North L)
Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)



2



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Third Session, 33rd Parliament
Monday, June 15, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, June 15, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' EXPENDITURES

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform the House that I have today laid upon the table the individual members' expenditures for the fiscal year 1986-87. As I have done on previous occasions, I have placed copies in the members' desks. They will find them there.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CAMBRIDGE HIGHLAND GAMES

Mr. Barlow: I have today delivered to each member's mailbox a very colourful brochure promoting the largest highland games in North America, which is being held at Churchill park in the city of Cambridge.

The swirl of the kilts and the skirl of the bagpipes will delight thousands on Friday, July 17, and Saturday, July 18, at the 13th annual Cambridge Highland Games. Early arrivers and those who wish to camp at the park will be awakened by the lament of a lone piper, but by noon the sound will turn to a thundering of massed bands.

One thousand highland dancers from all across Canada and North America will compete for the Ontario open highland dance championship while others enjoy the spectacle of colourful sporting events such as tug of war, the caber toss, shot-put competitions, soccer finals and a five-kilometre foot race.

This is truly a major event for Ontario, and I invite you all, those who are of Scottish descent and those who wish they were, to come and sample the warm hospitality of my native Cambridge.

NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Wildman: Last week the provincial government announced that the Ministry of Health wishes to limit the number of residents at teaching hospitals in southern Ontario—in the whole province, since there are no teaching hospitals in northern Ontario. The reason given was that there are too many doctors practising in this province, and I guess the expenses for the

Ontario health insurance plan have gone up exponentially as the number of medical practitioners has increased.

It is important, however, to recognize that while there may be too many doctors in total practising in Ontario, there is a severe shortage of many specialists and general practitioners in northern Ontario. There are already 100 communities listed in the underserviced-areas program of the Ministry of Health, and this announcement made by the provincial government will only make it more difficult to attract medical practitioners to the small, isolated communities of northern Ontario.

It is time this government stopped dealing with the medical profession and the numbers involved in practising medicine in this province simply on the basis of total numbers, and dealt with the maldistribution we now face and took action to ensure that doctors locate in the areas where they are needed.

SERVICES AUX PERSONNES AGÉES

M. Poirier: Mon gouvernement vient de désigner un nombre de régions pilotes pour établir des points d'accès unique, pour les services aux personnes âgées. Une de ces régions pilotes est composée des cinq comtés de l'est de l'Ontario, c'est-à-dire, Prescott-Russell, Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry.

Il y a quelque temps, le ministre délégué aux personnes âgées (M. Van Horne) mandatait une équipe pour aller rencontrer les gens à l'échelle de la province. Lors du passage de cette équipe itinérante dans l'est, nous avons discuté entre autre de la possibilité de mise sur pied de régions pilotes pour de tels points d'accès unique.

Depuis cette rencontre, plusieurs individus et groupes nous ont laissé savoir leurs appui fervent à la possibilité de voir l'est de l'Ontario désignée région pilote. C'est maintenant un fait accompli. Je suis certain que la population de l'est prendra l'occasion fournie afin d'assurer que ces points d'accès unique aux services répondent le mieux possible à leurs besoins.

On behalf of all the people from eastern Ontario and on my own behalf, I wish to thank my government for having really listened to the concerns expressed by the people from the east,

especially with regard to the specific nature of this area. In particular, I wish to express my appreciation for the excellent co-operation I have had from the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mr. Van Horne) and from all the other ministers involved in this dossier.

FUND-RAISING

Mr. Gillies: I wish to draw to the attention of the House that tonight is the big fund-raiser for the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). For those with nothing better to do, and of course \$200 to spare, you too can come and watch as the Minister of Health shakes down the health professionals of this province at the University Women's Club.

Just think, you will probably even get to meet the member for York East (Ms. Hart), the minister's parliamentary assistant, whom he values so much that he allowed her and her staff to arrange this lovely evening. And do not forget, for those of you in the health care field who did not feel quite pressured enough to put out \$200 to the man who is directly responsible for your funding, the Minister of Health decided to pull out all the stops and really send in the clowns.

According to the second notice, you will get a chance to meet not only the Minister of Health but also his cabinet colleagues the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye), the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara), the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil), the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton), the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mr. Van Horne), the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grand-maitre), the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio), the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes), the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins), the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro), the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and even the Premier (Mr. Peterson).

As William Somerville, one of the noted bagmen for the Liberal Party, told the Toronto Star in March, "These gatherings allow businessmen to tell their problems to the politicians, who tend to listen better when they know money for the party is involved."

Yes, it will all be there: the ministers, their limousines, their drivers, their highly paid assistants, and it will cost only \$200.

1340

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY WORKERS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) is not a great host. He extends an invitation to people to come and meet with him, and then a few days before the meeting is supposed to occur, he decides he will not meet with the group at all but just with a few representatives.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: That is not true.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister will have his chance to respond, if he chooses to.

The workers in children's aid societies around Ontario had a great deal of difficulty in the last number of years with contracts and with child-welfare administration. Last September, in a letter to a Canadian Union of Public Employees representative, the minister indicated he would meet with representatives from CUPE locals, presidents of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union locals and unorganized workers from other agencies around the province.

That meeting is to take place today. As of Friday of last week, the minister's staff indicated he would not meet with them all; he would meet with only a small group of them, perhaps six. There are representatives of 38 of those organizations here. They come from Thunder Bay, they come from Sault Ste. Marie and from many long distances in this province, and they expect to meet with the minister at 4 p.m.

I am suggesting here to the minister that it would be wise if he were to meet with them all and not with a small, select group. They are not to be feared; they are his servants.

SENIOR CITIZENS MONTH

Mr. Callahan: I am proud to rise in my place today to laud the fact that this month is Senior Citizens Month. As well, in the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, it is Senior Citizens Week.

I think it shows the sensitivity of a government when it appoints a minister directly responsible for senior citizens. It shows the new approach and direction this government is taking, and it becomes particularly important to me as I get on in years that I should be certain the government that is looking after these matters does look after senior citizens, because I am fast approaching becoming one.

I would like to direct the members' attention to two of my favourite senior citizens, who are sitting in the member's gallery. One of them is my mother, Louise Callahan, and the other one is

my father-in-law, James Grant Murray, 84 and 85 respectively, along with my lovely wife, Lyn.

PENETANGUISHENE MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

Mr. McLean: I have a statement for the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) regarding the recent funding of \$4 million for a sports and recreational facility at the Oak Ridge division of Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre.

I have on previous occasions asked the minister for \$2.8 million to enable the hiring of additional staff at the Penetanguishene facility. As members are aware, about 90 additional staff are required to provide adequate treatment services at the centre. I want to make it quite clear that I am not downgrading the importance and usefulness of a sports and recreation facility; I am trying to make the minister aware of a greater need, and that is additional staff and improvements to the centre of a far more urgent nature.

I have to wonder if the minister looked at the Oak Ridge project objectively, or did he merely see it as a political opportunity? In a letter to me dated May 14, 1987, he indicated the existing Oak Ridge facility is not appropriate in today's context. He said, "It is my opinion that rebuilding the facility is the preferred option," and that a new building would be in the same general area.

Again, I would like to stress that any money this provincial government spends in the riding of Simcoe East is welcome, but let us consider first and foremost the real needs confronted by the administration and staff at the centre. Let us make certain that taxpayers' money is being well spent where it will do the most good.

It is my humble and objective opinion that \$4 million would have been more wisely spent for hiring additional staff and building a new facility. When is the minister going to announce the funding required for Oak Ridge?

FUND-RAISING

Mr. Speaker: I did not want to interrupt while the members were making statements. However, there was one member today who I felt somehow or other used what I might call abusive or insulting language and I would like the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) to review his comments. He referred to some members as clowns, I believe. I think that is right.

Interjections.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

SEVERANCE PAY AND NOTICE PROVISIONS

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Before I start, I should just say to the honourable members that I will be introducing this bill later today, but I think through an oversight they already have copies of the bill which will aid them in having a look at this, as I go through the statement.

Later today I will be introducing a bill to provide greater protection for Ontario workers who may fall victim to layoffs and terminations because of plant closures and other kinds of business discontinuance. It will also require businesses to provide disclosure to the Minister of Labour and to the employees.

The bill is designed to broaden the scope of the Employment Standards Act by providing individual workers who are terminated with the right to severance pay. In addition, it is designed to lengthen the notice of termination period received by individual workers and to ensure that workers on lengthy temporary layoff will have a right to termination pay if they are not given notice.

A worker's rights to notice of termination and to severance pay are enshrined in the Employment Standards Act. These rights manifest a philosophy recognized by this House that the relationship between an employer and an employee is to be just and equitable. The legislation I am introducing today goes considerably further than the existing provisions of the act in guaranteeing the fairness of that relationship.

Severance pay recognizes that, over a period of years, a worker develops employer-specific skills, substantial seniority and associated benefits. When a long-serving employee loses his or her job, those employer-specific skills become redundant and those associated benefits are lost. Severance pay is compensation for those losses. That is why, effective today, under this legislation, any individual worker with five years' employment at an enterprise which has an annual payroll of at least \$2.5 million would be eligible for severance pay in cases of termination or lengthy layoff.

En élargissant la définition du mot employeur à un groupe de corporations affiliées ayant une feuille de paie annuelle de 2,5 millions de dollars, cette loi assurera le versement d'indemnités de cessation d'emploi à un plus grand nombre de personnes. Cette caractéristique du projet de loi et les améliorations apportées à la Loi sur les Normes d'Emploi prouvent que notre

gouvernement reconnaît la dignité et la valeur des hommes et des femmes travaillant dans notre province.

In the past, terminated workers were not eligible for severance pay unless the business was discontinued and there were at least 50 workers terminated within a six-month period. Under this bill, a worker can be part of a group or can be the only individual terminated and still be entitled to severance pay.

The worker would qualify for severance pay regardless of the cause of the termination. The termination could arise because a business closes or because its operations were reduced. In the case of reduced operations, any worker with five years' employment who is laid off for 35 weeks in any 52-week period would qualify for severance pay.

Terminated workers would also have the option of renouncing recall rights and claiming the severance pay immediately or retaining recall rights and having the severance pay placed in trust with the director of the employment standards branch. Interest will be paid on these funds.

The legislation would ensure protection for workers who are employed at a company that is part of a larger enterprise. For instance, if a worker was employed at a company with a payroll of only \$2 million, the worker would be eligible for severance pay if the payroll of that company and related companies, combined, was at least \$2.5 million.

In the past, the calculation of severance pay has been based on a worker's completed years of employment. This meant, for example, that a worker with five years and 11 months of employment with an employer received credit for only five years' service. The 11 extra months did not count. This legislation would provide credit for those months.

Any employer who fears that the measures in this bill would cause financial hardship may apply for permission to meet severance pay obligations by instalment over a three-year period. Each case will be reviewed on its merits.

In instances where the workers affected are members of a labour union, the legislation would permit the union to bargain a settlement of severance claims on their behalf. This provision would allow a union to negotiate a settlement that attempts to protect the workers' rights to unemployment insurance.

1350

Severance pay was never intended to substitute for unemployment insurance benefits, and it

should not be classed as earnings for that purpose. The position of this government on that issue is well documented and I can assure this House that the government has by no means abandoned its efforts to protect the severance pay of workers. The battle is far from over.

In many instances in the past, workers have been hampered in seeking alternative employment once an employer has announced a closure, because they must stay on the job until the closing date to be entitled to severance pay. This has produced frustrations for workers wanting to leave early to start a new job. The legislation would resolve this problem by permitting a worker to give two weeks' notice during the statutory notice period without jeopardizing his or her claim to severance pay.

Besides addressing severance pay issues, this bill also seeks to improve the provisions for notice of termination to individual workers. Workers with less than two years' employment have been entitled to only one week's notice, while those with less than five years on the job have been given only two weeks' notice.

This bill would also require employers to provide written notice of termination of at least one week to anyone employed for more than three months, but for less than one year. Two weeks' notice would be required if a worker has been employed for at least one year but less than three years. An additional week's notice would be required for each completed year of employment up to a maximum of eight for workers with eight or more years' employment.

In the past, there has been no requirement to give notice to a worker on temporary layoff regardless of the length of the layoff. As with severance pay, any worker temporarily laid off for 35 weeks within a 52-week period would have the right to termination pay if that worker had not been given notice.

There are special provisions under the Employment Standards Act which require longer notice periods of between eight and 16 weeks to employees who lose their jobs in mass layoffs. A lengthening of these periods could place many Ontario employers in the untenable position of having to serve notice of termination on employees before knowing whether such layoffs will be necessary, with the associated uncertainty for workers. For this reason, the government has chosen not to lengthen the mass-layoff notice periods.

The legislation I am introducing today is designed to give the worker, the community and the government information on why a closure is

taking place, what the impact will be and what the employer is prepared to do to help the employees. It would require employers to be more actively involved in helping the workers and their families to adjust. Once proclaimed, in cases of mass layoffs employers would be required to disclose to employees and to the minister the following information:

First, an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the intended mass layoff or closure;

Second, an indication of consultations already carried out with its employees and the community, and proposed consultations;

Third, a profile of affected workers, such as age, occupation and length of service;

Finally, proposed adjustment measures to assist laid-off workers, including an indication of the number of employees expected to benefit from the proposed adjustment measures.

The legislation would provide that until such time as this disclosure statement is reviewed by the Minister of Labour and determined to be in accordance with the requirements, the statutory period of notice to workers affected by mass layoffs would not begin.

The measures in this bill will increase and ensure benefits for workers who have not been protected adequately in the past, but beyond those measures lies the challenge to create an active early warning system, capable of preventing or reducing closures and mass layoffs before they happen.

My colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) will soon be announcing the appointment of the industrial restructuring commissioner. It will be the commissioner's task to identify problem situations in their early stages and to attempt to develop creative options in selected restructuring situations.

The changes to the Employment Standards Act I am proposing today put Ontario ahead of any other jurisdiction on the continent when it comes to protecting workers from the contemporary forces of economic change adversely affecting them and their families. It is the view of this government that in 1987 it is unacceptable to the people of Ontario for society to respond to workers who are losing their jobs with anything less than sensitivity, understanding and respect. Workers in this province have a right to basic economic protection against layoffs and closures. More important, they have a right to retain their dignity in the face of adversity; a right to know their worth as human beings has not diminished because they are without a job.

I am proud that these amendments I will be bringing forth recognize those rights and ensure their enhanced protection. The changes I am proposing are responsible and reasonable but, most important, they will bring a new measure of economic justice to working men and women in Ontario.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: Earlier today I announced that a review of the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton will be undertaken. This action responds to a specific request from the Ottawa-Carleton regional council. The Ottawa-Carleton regional government study will place particular emphasis on reviewing regional council representation and accountability, and functions and related financial issues.

L'étude sur le gouvernement régional d'Ottawa-Carleton mettra l'accent sur la révision du mode de représentation du conseil régional et l'imputabilité, ainsi que les modes de fonctionnement et de financement.

Un premier rapport sur l'imputabilité et le mode de représentation sera complète en décembre prochain si l'on respecte l'échéancier prévu.

This should provide adequate time for consideration of any recommendations which may deal with council composition prior to the 1988 municipal elections. The second phase of the report will deal with functions and related financial matters. A study co-ordinator will be appointed soon to conduct the review.

It is my continuing wish to explore the potential for enhanced local government in Ontario and to assist all citizens in better understanding municipal government in the province.

J'ai la ferme intention de poursuivre mes efforts afin d'accroître l'efficacité de l'administration locale, d'une part, et d'autre part, d'aider les citoyens à mieux comprendre la nature de l'administration municipale à travers notre province.

We have already undertaken a study of regional government in Metropolitan Toronto, and I will be releasing the government's proposals to implement changes to the structure of Metro's council shortly. Legislation will follow in the fall.

I will be announcing the terms of reference for a review in the region of Niagara in the not-too-distant future. This review will also be conducted in two phases. La première phase traitera sur l'imputabilité et du mode de représen-

tation alors que la deuxième phase se penchera sur les modes de fonctionnement et de financement des conseils régionaux.

In addition, my ministry is discussing a review with the region of Haldimand-Norfolk.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CENTRES

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I want to put on record once again the Ontario position relating to the federal government proposal for international banking centres.

Honourable members will know by now that in spite of major concerns about this proposal raised by the Blenkarn committee and many other knowledgeable Canadians, we now find that the federal government is attempting to bring this idea into force through the back door.

Last week the federal government attempted to bury this measure in a comprehensive tax bill. Furthermore, it now apparently intends to bypass the all-party House of Commons finance committee and refer the proposal directly to a legislative committee.

We do not believe this to be a process that will allow a full discussion on this important matter. Quite frankly, we find the federal government's action at this time to be inconsistent, given that a major tax reform package is to be announced later this week. None the less, let me again note Ontario's strong objection to the proposal as it now stands.

We believe that any move towards international banking centres should not be based on geographic discrimination, that the marketplace be allowed to determine financial centres and that unless these factors are put in place, the federal government should withdraw this proposal.

1400

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Hon. Mr. Wrye: As the minister responsible for human rights, it gives me great pleasure to draw to the attention of honourable members that today, June 15, 1987, is the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Human Rights Code and the establishment of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

The Human Rights Code of this province is a declaration of public policy designed to engender a climate of understanding and mutual respect. More so than most legislation, it reflects the community's readiness to adapt its inherent fairness and open-mindedness to contemporary concerns.

This government has demonstrated its strong commitment to the principle of equality rights by

bringing the code into conformity with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and by providing the commission with additional resources and strengthening its mandate; but I would remind honourable members and the people of Ontario that even these steps will not eliminate discrimination in our community.

None of us can afford to be complacent as long as the rights of any individual are abused or denied. We must remain vigilant against the discrimination that still needs to be addressed. While this anniversary is a time to reflect on our accomplishments in the field of human rights, and they are many, it is a time to rededicate ourselves to the challenges that lie ahead.

Both the code and the commission are vital to this province and its people, but they do not, in and of themselves, constitute the full measure of the community's recognition of the dignity and worth of every person. Nor do they reflect the full measure of the community's solemn undertaking to provide for recognition of equal opportunities and rights. That totality can only be measured by the ways in which each of us living and working in Ontario respects and responds to each other each and every day.

RESPONSES

SEVERANCE PAY AND NOTICE PROVISIONS

Mr. Gordon: I would like to respond to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) and some of the announcements he has made today.

First of all, we welcome any changes that are made in the interests of the workers of Ontario. That is something we all benefit from. At the same time, I have to point out that some of the points the minister has made with regard to justification do not hit the mark entirely the way they could.

Let us take a look at the present circumstances. At the present time, with regard to justification, it is my view that it lacks teeth. Over half of the Ontario workers are still left out in the cold. As the minister knows, it is now 50 or more who are protected. In my view, it should have been lowered to at least 20. This would then begin to cover the majority of Ontario workers.

At the same time, with regard to protection for people laid off prior to June 15, that is also a moot point. We have seen increases in layoffs in northern Ontario up to 49 per cent in the last two years. While this is certainly going to help some people, it does not help the people who have been laid off over the past two years in northern Ontario. We believe while the government has

acted, it has acted too late. It should have acted much earlier than this.

Mr. Rae: I just want to comment on the two statements made by the Minister of Labour.

First of all, I think it is remarkable that the minister would be making two statements with respect to areas that are directly covered by the accord which, after all, brought about the formation of the government over there. Again we see the fact that the minister has chosen to pretend there was a process of immaculate conception that put him into his chair as Minister of Labour rather than a direct process of negotiation.

I want to say to the minister that I think it is interesting that he would make a statement with respect to severance pay and not have the decency to inform the House in his statement how many workers are going to be covered by the legislation and how many workers are not going to be covered by the legislation. It is worth pointing out that at least half the workers in the province are not going to be covered by this legislation. The minister knows that fact and he has chosen not to tell the House about that fact.

For example, on page 11 of his statement, in his pathetic attempt to reconstruct not only his own position in this House but also the past, the minister says, "Workers in this province have a right to basic economic protection against layoffs and closures." We agree with that statement, and that is why we think the rest of the statement is so inadequate.

It is an inadequate meeting of the commitment that the Liberal Party made. It is an inadequate meeting of the commitment that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) made when he was the leader of the Liberal Party in opposition, not only during the election campaign but also before the election campaign, with respect to the question of notice, severance and the question of justification.

There is no justification here. There is a letter to the Minister of Labour saying, "We are closing down and this is why." Big deal. It will not make a bit of difference to any of the workers. There is the minimal protection of one, two, three, four, five or six weeks, depending on the amount of seniority one has. There is the basic fact that over half the workers in this province will not be covered.

We ought to understand precisely what kind of world Liberal Ontario is. We now face a work force where half the workers are not going to be covered by the Employment Standards Act with respect to this question of severance and notice. Over half the workers will not have any private

pension and are not going to benefit from any of the legislation brought in. We are seeing the creation by the Liberal Party of basically two worlds of employment in Ontario. If you are covered, you have a very minimum protection, and perhaps a small pension at the end of the day; if you are not covered, you get nothing.

What is so true is that the areas of growth in the economy, the areas of new jobs being created are the areas of the economy that are not covered. That is what is troublesome and that is why the approach the minister has outlined is so pathetically inadequate in terms of meeting the challenge of the 1980s and 1990s in terms of our new work force.

It is interesting that if you look at the numbers, it is clear that more and more women are not going to be covered by this legislation. It is discriminatory against low-paid people. It is discriminatory against those people who are working in smaller establishments. It is going to discriminate particularly against part-time people and women in the work force. That is the Liberal world of employment in 1987 in Ontario.

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr. Rae: With respect to the announcement on the Ontario Human Rights Commission, let me just say to the minister that there is nothing on affirmative action, nothing on systemic discrimination, nothing with respect to new action for the disabled and nothing with respect to new action in terms of affirmative action for women or visible minorities. His record with regard to what is really going on in employment and what is really going on in discrimination is pathetic.

This statement on the 25th anniversary of the Ontario Human Rights Commission is an embarrassment. There is no announcement of a new initiative, no announcement even that they are meeting the commitments they made in the accord when they were so desperate to form a government. Now that they have formed a government, we can see they do not know what to do with the responsibility they have been given by this House.

SEVERANCE PAY AND NOTICE PROVISIONS

Mr. Mackenzie: This legislation extends the severance pay required with firms with a payroll of \$2.5 million. By the minister's own comments, less than 45 per cent of the work force will be covered by this bill. It does not require the justification we wanted. As my leader has indicated, one still has to work for five years.

This legislation that the minister has brought into this House is little better than a piece of garbage.

ORAL QUESTIONS

UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT

Mr. Grossman: My question is for the Premier. I wonder if the Premier can give a flat-out guarantee that every Ontario grade 13 student achieving a 60 per cent average or better will be offered a place in an Ontario university?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The universities establish the criteria for admission, as the honourable member knows. There has been a substantial guarantee by this government that every qualified student will have a place in a university this fall.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier and the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations obviously disagree dramatically, when the faculty associations said last week that students in this province will require 70 per cent to get into university this year. They also went on to allege that this will result from the corridor system, a cap system that he and his colleagues put in this year as a follow-up to the Bovey commission report.

Does the Premier not agree with me that when the government cannot guarantee a university spot for every grade 13 student getting 60 per cent or better, the people first affected are members of groups not properly represented in universities, particularly visible minorities and immigrants, francophones, single parents and people from lower economic groups?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member is alleging a kind of discrimination that I would not be any party to at all. Presumably, he is alleging that those groups he mentioned have lower academic standards than other groups and I reject that absolutely. I do not know how the member could be party to that kind of falsehood in this House. I think the minister has explained the admission policies, and I will explain it again if the member would like me to do so.

There is, under the new funding formula, a three per cent corridor up and down. In addition to that, there is an accessibility package to take advantage of the great new explosion in enrolment that will come this fall. I believe that every qualified student will have a place in university this fall.

1410

Mr. Grossman: In regard to my comments about those groups that the Premier took such great exception to a moment ago, those words are

direct quotes from him, on January 15, 1985, responding to the Bovey commission recommendation.

Let me just read from his press release of January 15, 1985. He said, and these words will sound familiar to him:

"The first affected are members of groups not properly represented in universities, particularly visible minorities and immigrants, francophones, single parents and people from the lower economic sectors."

Those are precisely the words I used in my question to him and precisely the words that he rose, with his usual arrogant unctuousness, and condemned as suggesting that those people somehow were being suggested by me, as opposed to being suggested by him, not to be qualified or bright enough to get into university.

My final supplementary to the Premier is this. As he answers the question and begins by apologizing to the people he offended, by his own definition, would he attempt this afternoon to give a simple guarantee that every Ontario student getting 60 per cent or more in grade 13 will have a spot in Ontario universities?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I will give the member the guarantee that every qualified student will find a place in a post-secondary institution in this province this fall. Let me say to my honourable friend, I think he should be embarrassed to say the things he says.

This government has increased student aid by 25 per cent after the former Treasurer's parsimonious approach to the matter. That will allow a lot of people previously precluded on the basis of income to go to university. We have started the process of undoing the harm that the member has brought to the university system with visa students: \$5 million in order to equalize the harm that he brought about.

I think if the member looks at the accessibility package and our commitment to making sure that every qualified young Ontarian finds a place in our post-secondary system, he will find amazing progress in undoing the damage that he, as Treasurer, brought about.

Mr. Grossman: The visible minorities and others will be waiting for the Premier's apology.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

Mr. Grossman: My second question is to the Premier. I wonder if the Premier could give us an approximate estimate of the cost of renting an average one-bedroom apartment in Metropolitan Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Presumably my honourable friend is looking for an apartment, but I cannot give him the exact figure. They range. I do not know the precise figure he is looking for today, but he obviously has something in his mind. Will he bring it forward and then we will discuss it.

Mr. Grossman: Surely, when the Premier has put so much emphasis on housing, he has some idea of what it costs to rent an apartment in this city in which he spends a great deal of time. He can hardly construct a rent control program, a rent review program or a housing program without knowing the answer to that question. I will repeat my question to him. What is the range of cost for renting a one-bedroom apartment in Metropolitan Toronto, within \$100 a month?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Is this 20 questions, or is the member looking for a spot to move to? Has he been thrown out of his house in Forest Hill? I am not sure what the honourable member's particular problem is, but he can look at the programs devised by this province to attack the problems of accessibility and affordability in housing. We acknowledge that there is a serious problem and we have targeted our resources to meeting those problems. We think that the supply package brought forward will make a major impact.

Mr. Grossman: You don't have a clue within \$100 a month.

Mr. Gillies: Ignorance is bliss.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: It is shocking that the Premier, who is a business person, as I read, a person who resides in this city a great deal, does not know within \$100 what the average cost of renting a one-bedroom apartment is in Metropolitan Toronto.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: None of those members knew. If they had so much to say, why did they not help out the Premier?

Mr. Speaker: The question.

Mr. Grossman: My question to the Premier is this. The average cost of renting a one-bedroom apartment, by looking at today's Toronto Star, which I know he does, would show it is about \$670 a month. Given the fact that it costs \$670 a month to rent a one-bedroom apartment in Metropolitan Toronto, what does the Premier say to the disabled, who he is requiring to live on \$655 a month, when the cost of accommodation alone in Metropolitan Toronto is \$670 a month? What does he say to the disabled he has taken

money from? How do they manage to get a one-bedroom apartment in this city, when it costs more to rent a one-bedroom apartment than their entire monthly cheque from the guaranteed annual income system for the disabled?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend is prone to use misstatement to make a particular point. He is prone to deny some of the realities of the programs that go on under the various ministries with respect to housing and special areas. He is prone to forget about the major initiative announced by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) in the last speech from the throne and in the budget with respect to assisting in those areas. He is prone to forget about some of the programs in Ontario Housing that are targeting particular areas.

I think my honourable friend would want to give a complete picture of this entire matter before he takes a fact and tries to spin it into a universal truth. I think he has found out that his research has been so faulty lately on matters of immigration, pensions and school allocations that at least he should have the common decency of the New Democratic Party and fire the researchers when they make mistakes.

SEVERANCE PAY AND NOTICE PROVISIONS

Mr. Rae: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. I wonder why the minister has ignored the needs of over half the workers in Ontario in the announcement he made today with respect to severance pay.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: By my estimate, the severance pay changes and the new protections for workers will increase fivefold the number of protected workers from the previous level of protection. They represent a very major step forward and will ensure not only that workers will be protected in terms of severance pay and decent termination notice but also that the kinds of avoidance of the provisions which have occurred all too often on previous occasions will end. Not only that, these provisions will ensure that workers in communities receive for the first time the kind of proper and sensitive disclosure they need.

Mr. Rae: Frank Scott, the great lawyer and poet, once said of Mackenzie King that he would never do by halves what he could do by quarters; and that is precisely what the Minister of Labour has done today.

I would just like to hear from the minister his justification. He knows full well that over 55 per cent of the workers will not be covered by this

legislation. I wonder if the minister can justify that discrimination against over half the workers in the province today. What is his justification for discriminating against half the working people in this province?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Until today's legislation, I think about nine or 10 per cent of the workers would have been protected. Today, we have moved that number forward fivefold; and I am proud of that change.

I have been listening a lot to the leader of the third party compare everything in Ontario with things in Manitoba, and I am waiting to hear from him today a comparison of Ontario's severance pay laws and the changes we are proposing to what is going on in Manitoba. The reason the leader of the third party will be so silent is that we are so far ahead of Manitoba and every other jurisdiction in North America that he has no other comparison to make.

Mr. Rae: The minister is a creature of pathos in this House. I think we all understand that. I have asked him twice now to answer the question. I would like him to answer the question. How does he justify the discrimination against half the working people in this province? How does he justify that discrimination as Minister of Labour? Why would he not at least have had the courtesy of saying that in his statement today, saying that we are doing something for half the working people and that we are not doing anything for the other half? Why would he not at least have the courage to admit that is the effect of what he is doing rather than attempting to deceive people with respect to this announcement?

1420

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I would say to the leader of the third party that the statement is very clear and very explicit. It points to the great step forward we are making today, and we are really making quite a major step forward in terms of protection of workers by going to a payroll figure of \$2.5 million.

The honourable gentleman will know that the way is now open for automatic growth in years to come. As the payroll goes up with upward changes in the income of employees, there will be growth in the number of workers each and every year, each and every month, who will be covered by the severance pay.

I would have thought that the leader of the third party would have acknowledged in his response to today's changes that Ontario is the only province that makes severance payable in mass closure-layoff situations. I would have

thought that he would have acknowledged that Ontario is the only province that cites a payroll level of \$2.5 million.

I would have thought that the honourable member, sensitive as he is to the recent Goodyear situation, would have acknowledged that workers who want to leave early to move to new jobs may now do so. I would have thought that the honourable leader of the third party would have acknowledged that in temporary layoffs—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

GUIDE TO FINDING A JOB

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio. I gather that the minister has been sending around a leaflet or a booklet which has the title of Ruprecht's Guide to Finding a Job. I wonder if the minister can tell us whether he wrote this pamphlet.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: The leader of the third party will probably know that most of these kinds of booklets are written by staff members.

Mr. Rae: I wonder if I can ask the minister which staff members. Several years ago, in 1984, I raised questions in the House about a document called *And Finally I Did Get A Job*, which is not in fact the minister's autobiography but rather a document produced by the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development, Ontario youth secretariat; Honourable Gordon H. Dean, provincial secretary. The member for Wentworth may have a claim here.

I wonder if the minister can explain why the real authorship of this document has been concealed from the people of Parkdale.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I would have to make some comparison, and perhaps the honourable member is in a good position to do that now. He would probably concede that the principles of finding a job would be the same two years ago, three years ago or today. I think it is probably a great idea that this booklet is out.

Mr. Rae: By way of my final supplementary, the leader of the Liberal Party in 1984 described this document as a "silly little brochure." That was his description of it in 1984. The minister will find that, apart from the cover—this cover says "And Finally I Did Get A Job" and has his name on the front—there is a notice about plaques on the back, saying how you can get any other plaque. It says you can get a letter from Her Majesty the Queen on your 60th wedding anniversary, on your 100th birthday and so on, but you can get—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: And the supplementary?

Mr. Rae: —but you can get a plaque from the honourable minister on all the above, and indeed on any other special occasion.

Can I ask the Minister without Portfolio why he is repeating the same mistake that was made in the earlier leaflet; that is, why is he suggesting that people who are looking for a job in his riding should not be asking about wages, hours or benefits? Does he not think that is the kind of information the working people of Parkdale are entitled to?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: It is obvious to me, and it really should be obvious to the honourable member, that at least half of this caucus is using the same kind of information. If anyone would like to have a special recognition by the Premier, it certainly should be authorized by his caucus, and we are doing it. I would at least expect that half of the member's caucus are doing the same thing.

Mr. Gillies: The minister should get a plaque for that answer.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: And your question is to which minister?

Mr. Gillies: I am sorry. There is some clack about the plaque down here and I cannot quite get on.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Mr. Gillies: My question is to the acting Minister of Government Services. We have reviewed the award of computer contracts by the ministries from the period of June 1985 to June 1986. Regarding the two ministries for which the minister is responsible, the Ministry of Government Services and the Ministry of Education, of all the computer contracts awarded by those two ministries, in the case of the Ministry of Government Services, 50.4 per cent of them were not tendered and, in the Ministry of Education, 31 per cent of the computer contracts were not tendered, for a total of over \$10 million in untendered contracts.

I wonder if the minister could explain why such an extraordinary amount in untendered contracts was awarded by himself.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I will be pleased to take that matter as notice and report back to the honourable member at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Gillies: I am surprised that the minister requires notice, because this was the subject of questions in Orders and Notices which were

answered in detail by his ministry within the last year. This of course causes us concern, when we see millions of dollars of untendered contracts.

I wonder if the minister might be able to tell us a bit about one of them particularly. The Ministry of Government Services on July 17, 1985, awarded an untendered contract in the amount of \$55,000 to a company called CCA Canada. Can the minister confirm that CCA Canada was actually a subsidiary of a company known as Graham, Schwartz and Partners Ltd., whose founders and directors were Abe Schwartz and Terry Graham, and that this untendered contract for \$55,000 was awarded days after Mr. Schwartz ceased to be a director of the company and during the time that Mr. Schwartz was in the minister's office advising him on computer-related matters?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I repeat my earlier answer. For very good reason, I have had some recent and very personal experience with the official opposition's recitation of alleged data. It is just not possible for me on the basis of my experience, particularly with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), to be anything but very careful, knowing the opposition's great propensity to get it all wrong.

MINING SAFETY

Mr. Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Maybe we can get an answer out of him today.

On June 2, two workers were sent down a shaft by their foreman to repair a pump at Levack. At approximately the same time, another shift boss sent workers to lower an eight-tonne crusher jaw, attached by a cable to the cage, down the same shaft. The only reason the two events did not occur simultaneously was that the pump was repaired quickly.

Can the minister confirm that the workers lowering the eight-tonne crusher jaw were not advised that two workers were sent to repair the pump, and can he also advise that there was no communication between the two shift bosses involved?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That matter had not been brought to my attention until the honourable member made me aware of it just now. I will check into the information the member has provided and any additional information he has and report back.

Mr. Martel: It is my understanding that orders were issued by his ministry.

One of the shift bosses involved in this incident was the same man who stated in the Joe

Kuhle case that the workers do not work above while workers are working below, yet the same foreman sent workers to repair the pump.

Can the minister now indicate to the House that despite Inco's stated policy, in fact the practice of Inco has been that men work at the bottom of a shaft while at the same time work is going on up above? I would ask the Attorney General to look into this matter as well, since it was he who refused to withdraw the prosecution against Joe Kuhle.

1430

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The honourable member would know that there are many thousands of orders issued each and every year. I think he would agree with me that it is somewhat unrealistic to expect that each and every order issued by the Ministry of Labour would be brought to the attention of the minister.

Regarding the second part of the honourable member's question, I understand the member's sensitivity and concern on this issue. However, I must repeat, and I am sure the Attorney General would agree, that this matter is now before the courts. It is a very important matter, certainly to the worker involved. I am sure my friend the member for Sudbury East would know that.

There is a proper way and a proper forum for information coming forward, and I am sure that will happen. Anything that would be said in here or outside could have, potentially, a detrimental effect on the right of this individual to a fair trial, and I do not intend to infringe in any way on his right to a fair trial.

POLICE CONDUCT

Mr. Shymko: My question is to the Solicitor General. On Wednesday, June 10, plainclothes police officers from division 13 brutally assaulted a number of citizens in front of 150 Dynevor Road in the city of York in the Eglinton-Dufferin area.

Without identifying themselves, after a minor disturbance caught their attention, they violently smashed the head of 17-year-old honour student Joe DaCosta three times against the pavement. When the boy's father, Mr. DaCosta Sr., arrived on the scene after being summoned by neighbours and demanded identification, he too was brutally assaulted and badly bruised. A concerned senior citizen who also tried to intervene was brutally attacked and beaten, which resulted in serious concussions to his head. He was taken to the hospital. When the mother of this immigrant Portuguese family tried to intervene, she was told, as allegedly heard by a witness:

"Keep away, lady. To us, you are just a piece of paper."

Will the minister look into this unfortunate example of police brutality in our city, reminiscent of places like Soweto or Warsaw, Poland, or, most recently, South Korea? Will he publicly condemn this unacceptable behaviour by launching an immediate investigation, notwithstanding the fact that a complaint has been lodged with the public complaints commissioner?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: There are approximately three questions to be answered. The circumstances of that particular incident had not been drawn specifically to my attention until the member did so, but I shall ask for a report on them. I would like to report to the member, however, that we are particularly conscious of a program to be sure that policing is sensitive to the needs of all our ethnic groups. In fact, I can announce to the honourable member that this very afternoon I will be meeting with a police chief in the immediate area of the city with regard to a study that has been done as to how to go about sensitizing the police to the immigrant population.

Mr. Shymko: I hope the minister will not sweep this issue under the carpet because it is being investigated by the public complaints commissioner. The matter has become a serious concern with ethnic communities, particularly with the Portuguese community, because unfortunately it has all the attributes of intolerance, bigotry and discrimination. Some people may even call it racism.

Once again, will the minister launch an immediate investigation? It is his prerogative and right to do so, since obviously the public complaints commissioner has not helped in stopping the police from such unacceptable behaviour over the past years.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: Once again, the issue was sent to the appropriate area when it was sent to the public complaints commissioner. I would be quite happy, though, to review the facts of this situation and report back to the member as to whether there is any need at this time for any further investigation into the allegations.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mrs. Grier: The Minister of the Environment is fond of telling us about his progress towards cleaning up our environment. Yet, when we examine specific situations, we seem to be finding more and more frequently that the ministry is in fact violating its own regulations.

I would like to ask the minister today about C-I-L in Sarnia. C-I-L has a massive holding pond that contains over 400 million gallons of liquid industrial waste which contains ammonia, phosphate, sulphuric acid, fluoride, dinitrotoluene, radionuclides, carbon tetrachloride and perchloroethylene.

Can the minister explain why he has given C-I-L permission to take the easiest and the cheapest route to getting rid of this industrial waste, by diluting it and letting it go into the St. Clair River? Why is he allowing C-I-L to discharge these chemicals into the St. Clair River?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member may be aware that this matter is under discussion at this time between officials of the Ministry of the Environment and the particular company. The wrapup or cleanup operation at the termination of a particular activity is subject to discussions with the abatement office in that part of the province. Before there is a finalization of anything, those discussions will have to be concluded.

Mrs. Grier: A letter from the director of the London regional office, dated December 29, 1986, allows C-I-L to discharge treated pond water into the main effluent stream under a number of conditions, so it seems to me that, in fact, a control order has been issued.

I would like to ask the minister why, given that this is a disposal of liquid industrial waste, he has not called for an environmental assessment hearing under the Environmental Protection Act or under the Environmental Assessment Act so that the people downstream, such as those in Wallaceburg, who draw their drinking water from the St. Clair River, can have some input into the decision which I think he has made but which he says he is about to make? Are we going to have some public input into what he is contemplating there?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: There has been some discussion, some dialogue, as the member will be aware, about this particular matter in the area. I have received some representations, as no doubt she has received copies of representations as well. Our discussions with the company involved are continuing and will continue with a view to attempting to come up with a solution to a decommissioning which is satisfactory to all.

It is one of those situations we are confronted with across the province. Where there is a winding-down or decommissioning taking place, where there is a change of operation or where particular circumstances arise of the kind she has described, we have a very careful dialogue with

the people involved to ensure that the public safety is protected.

BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Brandt: I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. On June 10, the minister was quoted in a respected Sarnia newspaper, the Sarnia Gazette, as having said, with respect to the local boundary issue, "I get the impression I should put everything on hold until after the election." Would the minister confirm whether that quote is accurate?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: That quote is not accurate.

Mr. Brandt: I appreciate the minister saying that, because the quote was given to the Sarnia Gazette by the Liberal candidate in the Sarnia area. The indications in this article were that the minister was not going to take any action with respect to the very sensitive and, I admit, controversial matter in connection with this particular issue.

Interjection.

Mr. Brandt: The minister knows full well, Attorney General, which side I am on.

I have attempted to handle this, I might add, in a nonpartisan way. However, since the local Liberal candidate has made this comment, I thought I would get some clarification from the minister.

Mr. Speaker: A question would be in order.

Mr. Brandt: By way of supplementary, could the minister indicate for the public record what the next step is for the parties in my area with respect to the resolution of this problem? What does the minister expect Sarnia township, the county and the city of Sarnia to do at this point in time?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: We are still hopeful that the three parties, the county, the township and the city of Sarnia, will find a proper conclusion to the boundary negotiations, which have been going on, as the member knows, for the last 36 or 37 years.

I would remind the honourable member that, as the former mayor of the city of Sarnia, he was involved in that same boundary dispute, but I must admit that he did try to find a solution. On the other hand, he failed. Now he is asking the government to resolve a 36- or 37-year-old problem. I can assure the member that we are still convinced we can find a solution, and I am sure the member will be the first one to congratulate this government for having found a solution to his problem.

1440

FUND-RAISING

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Premier. Has he been made aware of the short piece in the Hamilton Spectator dated June 10, which reads as follows: "Special Night Honours Lily Munro. The Hamilton Hungarian Cultural Centre will honour Dr. Lily Munro, Minister of Citizenship and Culture, at a dinner and dance June 20. The event will take place"—members are going to be interested—"at the Hungarian Cultural Centre on Catharine Street North, cocktails at six, dinner at seven, dance following at nine. Tickets are \$30 per person. There will be door prizes and a tax credit is available." Two numbers are given.

Does the Premier have an explanation for this misuse of an ethnic cultural centre for Liberal fund-raising purposes?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not sure what the honourable member's allegation is, and I am not sure one could draw any conclusion that there is some sort of misuse. I can say to my honourable friend there are regularly fund-raising activities by all parties in various ethnocultural clubs. I do not think there is anything untoward about that, at least that I am aware of.

Mr. Mackenzie: Can the Premier then answer for the answers we got when we phoned the two phone numbers? The first one was from Rose at the International Travel Service. When we asked about the tax credit, the political tax credit was 75 per cent. In a call to the second number, they told us, "To attend the dinner, you have to make your cheque payable to the Hamilton Centre PLA." When we asked what the PLA was, there was some hesitation in answering, but we were then told it was the Hamilton Centre Provincial Liberal Association.

Can the Premier tell us if this is a continuation of his government's rather sleazy fund-raising tactics that we have seen from the Liberals in the last few days?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Perhaps it should have been made out to the PTL—praise to Lily.

I am not sure what the honourable member is suggesting here. Perhaps he is upset that he was not invited, but I can assure the member, because I know my honourable colleague enjoys wide support across the community, I am sure he would be very welcome to attend as well.

WINTARIO TRAVEL GRANTS

Mr. Rowe: I have a question of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Given his professed

commitment to fitness and sports in this province, I wonder if he can tell me today why he has cut back the provincial government funding for Wintario travel grants that enable sports groups to travel to competitions around the country.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I can assure the member there has been no cutback in the grants to groups that are travelling. I presume he is speaking of high school groups that are travelling from one championship to another. In fact, I can assure him that fund has been increased by \$30,000.

Mr. Rowe: I do not think Bette Kalailieff, president of the Provincial Women's Softball Association of Ontario, will find that response from him very reassuring. I want to ask the minister the same question she posed in a letter to him dated June 1, 1987:

"It is with the deepest concern that I am writing directly to your offices regarding the support of our Ontario representative teams who hopefully will be soon going to Canada's national championships. We have just recently been informed that Wintario travel support for these teams has now been reduced to up to 27 per cent. Our organization is expected to send Ontario representative teams to four national championships. What in the world are these teams and associations like ours going to do?"

What are they going to do, now that the minister has cut them back?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I can assure the member they have not been cut back. That is fine in a letter, but the member should take a look at the facts. This funding is provided through sports governing bodies. This funding is provided through the high school associations. Let me read a letter from Kirkland Lake. The member should just listen to this: "I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for granting funding for Ontario go-kart athletes and also for special needs assistance under the best-ever program for 1986-87."

These have not been reduced; in fact, the member should brush up on the facts and find that the funding has really been increased.

SEVERANCE PAY AND NOTICE PROVISIONS

Mr. Hayes: My question is to the Minister of Labour. I know the minister is aware that on Friday, June 12, 180 workers at Ford Windsor export supply found out by accident, through an internal company communication, that they were to lose their jobs because of a United States

management decision to shut down the export supply operation in Windsor.

Can the minister tell us what this announcement he has made today will do for these workers whose jobs, it certainly appears, could be moved right out of this country to the United States?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The situation at the Ford export division, as I understand it, is that there will be a phase-out of employment over the next year and a half to two years. Under the amendments we will be introducing later this afternoon, before the official termination period can begin, the company will have to come forward to the government, the workers and the community with disclosure of the economic situation it faces and bring forward in its proposal the consultations that have been ongoing, if there have been any, and any it intends to have, the adjustment measures it will be putting into place and a profile of the affected workers.

In this party on this side, we want to ensure that everything that can be done will be done to ensure that workers, if they are to lose their jobs, will be treated in as sensitive a way as possible.

In the days to come, my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) will be coming forward with information regarding an industrial restructuring commissioner. It may well be that a commissioner may be able to get involved; that, given we are looking at a year-and-a-half to two-year lead time, this commissioner will be able to get involved in this specific situation.

Mr. Hayes: I mentioned that the workers actually found out by accident. I think the fear there now is that now it is public knowledge, this could proceed a lot more quickly—hopefully not before the minister puts in the proper legislation to protect these workers.

I want to know what the minister is doing and what steps he has taken, now that he is aware of this situation, to protect the jobs of the workers in Windsor.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The Ministry of Labour will obviously be in touch with the company. I am sure my colleagues at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology will also be in touch. Let us just be clear about what this legislation does. We are not, on this side at least, trying to tell people how to run their companies. We are not into that. What we are trying to do is to remind them and tell them that they have an obligation and responsibility to communities and workers. We think the legislation has done that.

Maybe the members on the opposite side disagree with that. Maybe the third party believes that companies ought to be told how to run themselves. That is not the view over here. We believe that any self-respecting company will follow the very responsible course we have taken. That party may disagree, but this legislation goes further than any legislation in any jurisdiction in North America, and that includes the jurisdiction of its friends in Manitoba.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. McFadden: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. The minister may remember that last Wednesday I asked him a question about the impact that the omnibus trade legislation now being considered by the United States Congress might have on Ontario industry. At that time in the House, I understand from press reports that the minister replied to a question I did not ask. I understand the minister gave me a listing at that time of those industries that might be sensitive to a free trade accord with the United States.

I do not know if the minister has had a chance to check his briefing notes or with the ministry since last Wednesday, but I ask him now if he would be able to tell the House the results of any research that his ministry has done about those industries that could be most susceptible to the loss of jobs or market as a result of the current protectionist trade legislation now being considered by the US Congress.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: We were talking about the omnibus trade bill, and there are several serious ramifications that could come from the two bills, one from the Senate and one from the House of Representatives. They would restrict the number of imports that would be coming into the United States as they relate to Canada and especially to Ontario. They would relate to natural resource subsidies; they would decide or tell us what would be classified as a subsidy. They would also likely affect seriously our telecommunications industry, as one example.

Mr. McFadden: I wonder if the minister could tell the House exactly what kind of monitoring is going on as to the impact on Ontario. Would the minister indicate to this House whether current studies indicate that those are the only industries that would be impacted on or whether he has really today only set out a couple of examples?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I can tell the member that we are monitoring both those bills on a daily basis. As I mentioned last week, we have a firm

of lawyers from Washington, by the name of Hogan and Hartson, looking at that daily.

As I say, we are talking about natural resources and the pricing of those. Another area that could be affected would be the imports of steel that would be coming into the United States. We are talking about natural resources, about steel and about telecommunications, plus a number of other varied articles which could also possibly be brought into both those bills.

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH BRAIN INJURIES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services and follows up on questions that have been raised with the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) around brain-damaged adults.

I cannot use the name, but there is a 26-year-old gentleman in court this afternoon or tomorrow, facing another possible conviction. He had brain damage through a skiing accident eight years ago. Since that time he has had 12 convictions for theft. His modus operandi basically is to go into a Mac's Milk store and say he is robbing the store. Things are given to him because his brain damage makes him look quite scary as an individual. He then goes outside and waits on the sidewalk for the police to come and goes peacefully with them.

Can the minister tell me what programs he has in Ontario to deal with the behaviour management of brain-damaged adults?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: There are two residential supported independent living programs, with some counselling, already established in London and Toronto. As of last month, three more were established: one in Hamilton, one in Kingston, and one in the process of being established in Ottawa. There are those five centres.

The assistance for the kind of behaviour which the honourable member suggested is not the major function of these centres. It is supported independent living, with some counselling, but it does not provide the kind of behaviour support the member spoke about. The other program that we have in place for the brain-injured is our vocational rehabilitation program, which again contains some counselling but not very much for the type of behaviour situation the member referred to.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am pleased that the minister accepts the fact that there is very little behaviour modification work being done at all in the province, especially geared to these people. I am learning more and more that this is a

significant part of their problems. The major strange and aberrant behaviour develops afterwards.

I want the minister to know that the last time this gentleman was in court, he had a good judge who gave him a suspended sentence on the basis that he would get treatment, but the notion of treatment was that he was sent to the Sally Ann. Clearly, he did not last there because that was not appropriate.

Can the minister guarantee to me that he and the Minister of Health will sit down together soon to work out some more projects to deal with this side of the problems of the many thousands of brain-damaged people each year in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I can go further than that and advise the honourable member that the Minister of Health and I have in fact been doing that for approximately the last six months. Our two ministries are trying to work out the proper liaison between them. As the member will be well aware, the Ministry of Health already provides considerable medical expertise and medical support.

The next question is, what happens when these people leave the hospital and move back into the community? We have met with a representative group of families of brain-injured people in Ontario and are exploring with them at the present time some of the things we might do.

They have brought to our attention, for example, that there are several facilities in the United States that charge, I believe, something like \$500 a day for this kind of rehabilitation program. We have assured them that we will examine what these facilities are doing and the extent to which we might be able to set up something similar in Ontario. That is a joint, co-ordinated effort going on between the Ministry of Health and my ministry at present.

TRADE EXPANSION FUND

Mr. Cousens: I have a skill-testing question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Why does the newly created trade expansion fund not give assistance to Ontario industries seeking increased access to United States markets?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: We did change that program so that we do not provide at the present time, assistance for those people who would like to have their air fares paid from some point in Ontario to some place in the United States. We feel that those companies should be able to afford those trips themselves. We continue to offer funding for people who are going on trade

missions and so on to other parts of the world, plus we do pay the air fare for people going from northern Ontario to points in the US.

Mr. Cousens: Point one is that the US market is the most important market to Ontario manufacturers. Point two is that the Ontario export fund did a great deal to support, enhance and improve trade between our country and the United States, so what real help is the minister giving Ontario manufacturers to expand their markets into the US? Let him tell us what he is really doing.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: We continue, on a day-to-day basis, to assist people who wish to trade in the United States. Our programs are very successful. We did, as I mentioned, cut out the funding in that particular area because we withheld it in other areas. We have expanded that fund to the amount of \$500,000 for those people in the northern part of Ontario so that we will help to increase their exports from this country.

1500

CONSERVATION OFFICERS

Mr. Wildman: I have a question to the Minister of Natural Resources. Is the minister aware that in the eastern and central regions of Ontario each conservation officer is responsible for between 1,000 and 1,200 square kilometres while in the northern four regions each CO has to patrol between 3,100 and 13,300 square kilometres? If the minister is aware of this, how does he justify a situation where a northern conservation officer has to patrol between three and 13 times as much area as a conservation officer in southern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am not fully apprised of the conditions the member has described to me and I am not going to try to give him an answer if I am not given the kinds of numbers and the reasons for that kind of difference in the whole situation. I would share with the member that I will examine that question and get back to him.

Mr. Wildman: While the minister is checking into that, could he check what the reasons are for the fact that only 42 per cent of the charges laid by conservation officers under the fish and game regulations are from northern Ontario, even though northern Ontario covers 84 per cent of the area of the province and is the area where most of the resources and most of the fishing and hunting are located?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: As I said, I am fully prepared to examine that question, but before I just say I will get back to the honourable member, the one thing I would like to share with

him is the fact that with the funding that is coming in with the fishing licence, certainly we are going to have more conservation officers. To the degree that we can share them in areas that need to be bolstered, I am prepared to do that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: You told us the funding was going to be used for fish and nothing else; just for restocking. That is what you told us.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: What is the leader of the third party yacking about now. Does he not want any conservation officers? What is the matter with him?

Mr. Speaker: Order, the member for York South. The Minister of Natural Resources has already responded.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Harris: I wonder if the Attorney General can tell this House why he sat on the disclosure statements of six parliamentary assistants who had filed them with the ministry, after which they are to be tabled within one month with the Clerk. Why did he sit on those for such a period of time, potentially putting the careers of those six parliamentary assistants in jeopardy?

Hon. Mr. Scott: As the member knows, for better or for worse, the policy that is followed until the new act is passed is the same as the policy that was adopted by the late government, which is that the assistant deputy minister of civil litigation in the Attorney General's ministry is in charge of disclosure statements. The statements are filed with him and then delivered by him to the Clerk of the House at the time he regards as appropriate. I have no role at all to play in that exercise.

Mr. Harris: The minister is the Attorney General, and I assume he is responsible for his ministry. I do not know how well he is responsible for it. Obviously, when he does not like the question, he says: "It is not me. It must be somebody else in my ministry. Don't blame me."

The minister is the Attorney General and he is responsible. If he had a Premier who really cared about conflict of interest—the minister put the careers of six of his colleagues, six parliamentary assistants, in jeopardy. They were in violation of the guidelines, and any Premier who had any conscience, who felt any moral obligation or any obligation at all to his own rules, would have had to do something in that situation. The Attorney General sat on them, and it is his ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Harris: Can the Attorney General tell us why his ministry is still placing the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) in a position of noncompliance and we still do not have tabled the disclosure statements from that parliamentary assistant?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The question is the same as it was when I answered the first time and the answer is exactly the same, though it has given rise to a speech. I have nothing further to add to what I said in answering the first question.

DURHAM COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Warner: I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. I wonder if the minister could explain what has happened at Durham College, where last fall the college took on 70 additional staff people without any warning that they could be sessional employees or that the job could be redundant at the end of the year. They recently terminated 25 of those 70. The union says it is gross mismanagement. The management says, to quote the president, "The funding mechanism is basically not fair to this college. We are the only ones who do not get the extra money. We get less money than what we require."

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Warner: I would like the minister to explain whether it is mismanagement or a lack of funds that causes Durham College to fire 25 people.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: What happened at Durham College was neither gross mismanagement nor lack of funds. The fact is, if one wanted—

Mr. McClellan: It is just normal, everyday mismanagement.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: What my friend the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) is suggesting is indeed a gross exaggeration.

Durham College was, like the other 21 community colleges over the past budgetary year, adapting to a radically different contract in respect to work load for faculty. There were some management problems there in implementing the contract. I am satisfied that those have been overcome and that every step that the ministry needed to take in order to assist in that regard has been taken, including the provision of some additional funding.

Mr. Warner: It would be a welcome relief to get at least a pathetic excuse. The minister still has not answered the question. I want to know

two things. First, why is it tolerable to him that 25 staff members have been cut? At the same time, the instructional hours for students have been reduced from 25 hours a week to 22 hours a week. Does he believe this will weaken the quality of education being received at Durham College?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not concerned that there is any weakening of the quality of education at Durham College. The programs are subject to the program review committee of the ministry, and we have had individuals from within the ministry examining the situation.

The member suggests to me that the reduction of 25 staff members impacts on the program. What I tell my friend the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere is this: in adjusting to the new contract, there were more hirings than one would have reasonably anticipated at Durham College and there has been a subsequent adjustment. That is simply a process that had to be undertaken at the college.

LENNOX GENERATING STATION

Mr. Andrewes: I believe the Minister of Energy was here. Has he left the House?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Here he is.

Mr. Andrewes: I wonder whether the minister has had an opportunity to reconsider his decision to restart the Lennox generating plant and to consider the option of nonpolluting, more economic gas-fired generation at the Hearn plant at the base of the Don Valley Parkway.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am very surprised that this former Minister of Energy would go back to this question. I think it was answered adequately. I have to share with him, though, a local paper that printed something about this issue, the Kingston Whig-Standard. It says: "Grossman's Opposition Torpedos Local Tories."

I am so surprised. Very seldom do any of us get caught for words over here: but three times at this question after the member has struck out all the other times? It seems like an unreasonable way for him to put his head back in the trap. Having said that, I tell the member that it makes uncommonly good sense for us to provide the jobs down there that—

Mr. Andrewes: Why? Why not at Hearn?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: If the member stops yapping for a minute, I will tell him. Just be quiet.

I listened to the question very carefully because I wanted to be sure the member was going to attempt this again. Let me share this fact

with him. We are putting 1,000 megawatts into the eastern grid to maintain the voltage to the people down in eastern Ontario, who happen to have the biggest demand in all of Ontario right now. This government is absolutely committed to providing not only reasonably priced power to the people in eastern Ontario but also a guaranteed supply. We are going to supply it with Ontario workers, not workers the member would hire in Quebec.

1510

NOTICES OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Cousens: Pursuant to standing order 30(a), I give notice that I am dissatisfied with the answer to the question given by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil).

Mr. Wildman: Under the same order, I would like to register disappointment and dissatisfaction with the answer of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) to my supplementary question with regard to the number of conservation officers and how the funding will be arrived at to improve the number of conservation officers. I would like to debate it.

Mr. Speaker: Two members have now given notice. They will follow up with written notice to the table and I will in due course advise the members. It may take place tomorrow evening or Thursday evening.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: When the minister says he will get back with the answer to the question, how can the member decide he should have some kind of an involvement in between?

PETITIONS

NOISE BARRIER

Mr. Andrewes: I have a petition.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the government of Ontario"—the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) will be interested to know—"construct a noise berm along the Queen Elizabeth Way to alleviate the problem of traffic noise which is disturbing and unbearable."

It is signed by 81 residents of the Grimsby Beach Park Road area of the riding of Lincoln.

DIALYSIS UNIT

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the government of Ontario provide the funding for a haemo-dialysis unit at one of the hospitals in Peterborough."

It is signed on behalf of a group of concerned citizens from the Asphodel, Norwood and Hastings area.

MARKET VALUE ASSESSMENT

Mr. Shymko: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, are opposed to the imposition of 1984 market value assessment on Metro Toronto by the provincial government and therefore beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas higher property taxes for many west Toronto home owners and tenants as a result of market value assessment would pose a tremendous financial hardship on many individuals, particularly those on fixed incomes, single-parent families, seniors and low-income workers; and

"Whereas the people of Ontario are already paying too much in taxes; and

"Whereas the increase in property taxes under market value assessment caused by escalating land prices in Metro Toronto would not result in a corresponding increase in municipal services; and

"Whereas the imposition of market value assessment on Metro Toronto by the provincial government will not only cause financial hardship for many people, but also have a destabilizing effect upon neighbourhoods and families in west Toronto;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to:

1. Not impose market value assessment on Metro Toronto home owners because it is an inequitable and onerous tax on land and places an unfair burden on home owners and tenants where real estate prices are rising;

2. Reform the property tax system by adopting the all-party April 1984 recommendation of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs that the province increase its direct funding of the total cost of education from its general revenues to 60 per cent from the current 44 per cent;

3. Explore alternatives to the current funding of education through residential property tax-

tion which is not the most appropriate basis for education revenue."

Mr. Speaker: This may be the appropriate time to remind all members that when they present petitions—I have suggested it on other occasions—they may forego the whereases and just read the therefores. I think that would get the message across.

MOTIONS

COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly be authorized to meet following routine proceedings on Tuesday, June 16, and Thursday, June 18, and in the morning of Wednesday, June 17, and Thursday, June 18, 1987.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE BILL

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that, at the request of the applicant and on the recommendation of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, standing order 72(e) requiring notice of an application for a private bill to be published in the Ontario Gazette be waived with respect to Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the Township of Chapleau.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved first reading of Bill 85, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THIRD READINGS

The following bills were given third reading on motion:

Bill 62, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act;

Bill 63, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act;

Bill 77, An Act to amend the Beef Cattle Marketing Act.

PAY EQUITY ACT

(continued)

LOI DE 1987 SUR L'ÉQUITÉ SALARIALE (continué)

Hon. Mr. Scott moved third reading of Bill 154, An Act to provide for Pay Equity.

L'hon. M. Scott propose la troisième lecture du projet de loi 154, Loi portant établissement de l'équité salariale.

Mr. Breagh: There could be an error here, but I thought there was a bit of an agreement that this particular bill would be stood down till somewhat later in the afternoon, as I understood members from each of the parties wanted to make short comments on the bill before it had third reading. If that is agreeable, perhaps we could do that.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I understood members of all three parties wanted to comment but I was not aware of an agreement that it should be stood down. Can we do it now? I do not really care.

Mr. Breagh: If I may, we can do it now but it means the members are going to listen to my short speech on third reading. If that is their pleasure, I will speak until my critic arrives.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Nothing would please me more.

Mr. Breagh: I guess that is what we are doing. We are lining up the speakers now.

This has been a long time coming. I am actually rather grateful that I have an opportunity to say a few words on third reading because I have been one of the members who has had an interest in this bill for a long, long period of time and I have not been able to participate in the committee procedures, as many members were able to do.

It is a major change in Canadian legislation, in provincial legislation, despite all the shortcomings the bill has. For us as a political entity, as a political party in Ontario, we thought that this concept was important and that it belonged in the accord we signed with the Liberal Party some two years ago. If we have regrets, they centre around how long it has taken to produce the bill in its final form and the deficiencies that are still in the bill.

1520

All of that notwithstanding, I think it is still important legislation. Members can probably tell it is important by the letters, the telephone calls and the number of people who are interested in this legislation.

It is true that of all the things we have done here in the last couple of years, trying to address ourselves to the matter of pay equity is one of the most important, because for more and more women in the work place the fact that they are working is not something casual but rather something essential. That argument and all the

long arguments we have gone through are important ones.

I want to say for my party, because she will not say it herself, that the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) has distinguished herself on this bill. This is a bill that is critical to working women in Ontario. I have watched her, with her usual ferocity, go at the legislative process in any way she could. That is what a good parliamentarian does. She attempted on a regular basis to improve the quality of the legislation. She successfully put forward the different sides of the issue, and it is a complex issue; and of course she had the tenacity to follow it through the process.

I would like to speak longer but I do not want to prolong the situation this afternoon. I do want to hear from the member for Ottawa Centre, who is not in her place. I am sure other members will have an opportunity to participate briefly this afternoon, but I think it was worth noting that although we normally do not engage in a great deal of debate on third reading of bills, this is a concept that deserves that kind of attention. This is a bill that is certainly not perfect but is significant in the history of our legislative process in Ontario and worth noting by means of some debate.

Mr. Shymko: I just want to comment on an issue that is not being resolved by this bill, which certainly I am supporting. It is an issue that I have discussed in committee with the Attorney General (Mr. Scott). There are employees, particularly women, almost 100 per cent of them immigrant women, who are still being exploited in a major way, who do not even get salaries of equal pay for equal work never mind work of equal value. This bill will not address the plight of these women.

I refer to the Portuguese and other immigrant women who clean our offices. If you look at the system of contracting out jobs, you will have an immigrant Portuguese woman cleaning my office in the Whitney Block paid some \$4 an hour less than the lady cleaning my colleague's office in the Legislative Building doing the same work. One is a public servant of the government of Ontario, a civil servant paid according to the unionized rate. The other lady doing the same work is being paid \$4 an hour less because she is contracted out.

This bill does not resolve the issue. I tell the Attorney General and the government that if we have a philosophy of pay equity, of eliminating inequities that are exploiting individuals, particularly women, we should review our policy of contracting out jobs.

It is an irony. When I raised the issue and the contract of the company that was hiring these women came up for renewal, its contract was not renewed. When I was fighting on their behalf, they ended up without jobs two months after this issue was raised.

Maybe it is an issue of contracting out to somebody else, but these inequities exist. I appeal to the government that if we are moving in the direction of eliminating these inequities that have discriminated, basically against women in such a blatant way, we should review our contracting-out policies. Wages should at least be close enough to the wages that are being paid to those workers who are members of the civil service, doing exactly the same job. That inequity has to be addressed.

I have not received an adequate response to this from either the Attorney General or the acting Minister of Government Services (Mr. Conway). As we pass this bill, which I know is supported by all members of the House, I would like to hear how the minister will address the other issues; because the women will be coming back, working exploited once again, taking care of the same families, with the same concerns, with the same problems of economic survival, and their plight is not addressed one iota.

Ms. Gigantes: I have just a few brief words as we come to the point where we are going to pass Bill 154. I would like to start by recollecting the words of one of the leaders of the Equal Pay Coalition, Mary Cornish, when she appeared on behalf of the coalition to speak to members of the standing committee on administration of justice working on Bill 154.

She said: "As you consider the amendments and go through the committee stage, there is sometimes a tendency in this process to weigh equally the amendments put forward by the business community and by women's groups and the unions. We ask you to recognize that this is not an equal process because for the past aeons and centuries women have been paid unfairly. It is not appropriate at this time to split the difference and give the business community part of its amendments and us some of ours."

In fact, very few of the amendments sought by the Equal Pay Coalition, by representatives of women working in unions, by community groups around this province, and indeed by members of my party, were passed in committee stage. One does not like making predictions in politics and the longer I spend in elective politics the less wise it appears to me to make predictions, but I am willing to predict to members of the Liberal Party

that this legislation will come back to haunt them.

This is the kind of legislation whose inadequacies will become obvious only with the passage of time. I know there are hundreds of thousands of women across Ontario who today feel that the legislation we are passing is going to benefit them, that it is going to rectify the inequities they have suffered in the work place and that it is going to ensure their particular employer no longer discriminates between women's work and men's work as it is performed in that work place. All of us who studied this legislation and attempted to improve it know this is not the case.

This is not what will be happening tomorrow; it is not what will be happening next year; it is not what will be happening the year after that. In fact, the formula provided in this legislation may cover as few as 1.1 million out of two million women, leaving 800,00 to 900,000 effectively excluded from the benefits of this legislation. Under the provisions of that legislation, even the women who qualify for equal pay adjustments are going to have to wait years.

Given the intent of employers not to bear the burden of the cost of rectifying discrimination and given the reluctance of the Liberal Party to provide against the restraint of wages by employers to provide for the costs of equal pay adjustments, those very women who are eligible under this legislation for equal pay adjustments will be asked by wage restraint to help contribute to the costs of rectifying the discrimination that has been practised against them.

It will take time before the full extent of the loopholes, exemptions, failures and flaws in this legislation are clear and obvious to all the people of Ontario; but the smart employers of Ontario know already, the legal firms that specialize in such matters know already and we know. There is a whole host of very powerful people preparing in this province to be able to seek out every loophole that exists in the legislation and to make sure the effectiveness of this bill when it is passed into law is severely limited.

1530

For years, women have been doing the jobs of cleaning, cooking, clerking, co-ordinating and caring in this society. Those jobs have been called women's work and those jobs have been underpaid by each and every employer across this province, almost without exception.

Would that this legislation were stronger. We could then support it with a whole and happy heart. I will vote for this legislation most reluctantly and feeling most disappointed in the

product we have been able to bring forward legislatively.

I say to the Liberals, this legislation will haunt them and they deserve to be haunted. We in our party will continue the fight for equal pay for work of equal value for every person in Ontario.

Mr. Harris: On behalf of our party, I too want to take a few minutes to put a few things on the record on this particular piece of legislation.

We in this party think this is a poor piece of legislation. We think many parts of this bill will prove to be unworkable and many parts of this bill will not achieve the purpose or the great principle the bill sets out to achieve, that of redressing systematic, gender-based pay inequity.

Throughout this bill, we in this party have had to face the reality that the other two parties are going to proceed. We had to face the reality that they were determined to proceed with a "pay equity bill" whether it was a good bill or a bad bill, whether it in fact would meet or would not meet the objectives of the principle that was outlined for it; that in fact there were other circumstances that have been driving this particular piece of legislation that seemed to make it "important" that this had to be passed. Something had to be passed, whether it was good or whether it was bad.

We tried very hard to make changes in this particular piece of legislation. We moved a number of amendments to make this legislation, we felt, perhaps more workable, to make this legislation more acceptable to those who are going to have to implement and work with this legislation; those being the employers of this province. We feel their concerns have been totally ignored. We feel there has been a great insensitivity on the part of the government, in its proceeding with this particular bill, to the private sector and to those who are going to have to make it work.

I pointed out last week during one of the very critical amendments, the one that summed up to me the total unwillingness to listen, involving who was in fact going to enforce this legislation. We lost all the amendments we had put forward on behalf of those employers, who are indeed the ones who must make this work or else it will be a shemuzzle.

As members will know, when a bill is so complex and gets involved in areas that are breaking new ground, that are difficult or impossible to administer, one will be blamed for trying to circumvent legislation no matter what

one does. We believe it gives rise to confrontations that we do not think need to be there.

Last week I spoke, not on an amendment that changed the bill, although we moved many of those amendments and were defeated by the Liberals on them, but on the particular amendment that talked about who would administer this bill. This legislation will create another independent, self-perpetuating bureaucracy.

Last week, we proposed an amendment that would have made the new pay equity administration a part of the existing employment standards branch of the Ministry of Labour. The business community, I might add, very much supported this view; and I pointed out last week that that surprised me a little bit, because I know that many in the business community have felt they have had to spend thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars—I have a number of cases in my files in my constituency office—defending what they felt were interventionist interventions by that particular branch of the Ministry of Labour. On those occasions they proved themselves right, but they had spent innumerable dollars, lawyers' time, accountants' time and what not, defending the position they were put into.

I was surprised to hear many of them say: "In spite of that, at least here is a branch of the government used to dealing with employer-employee relationships; it has been used to dealing with equal pay legislation. We have far more confidence in that group than we do in a whole new, independent, self-perpetuating bureaucracy." We were defeated on that amendment as well. I believe I had expressed at that time that I could not understand why that particular amendment was not looked at with a little more sensitivity by the government.

I just wanted to refer to a couple of comments I made at that time. I said we were not talking about the principle of the bill. We were not talking about the legislation in that amendment. We were talking about the people who have to make it work. The choice was the employment standards branch or this separate Pay Equity Commission; the employers said they would be more comfortable with the employment standards branch. The government would have to give the same direction to both of them. The legislation is going to be the same; either one would have to enforce the legislation. Given that those who have to make this legislation work indicated a preference, what difference would it make to the government, unless it really did want to set up a new bureaucracy, a new commission

and a whole bunch of new appointments and a whole bunch of new civil servants?

I said at that time, and I have not been given any argument since, and I still maintain that I cannot think of any other reason they would not allow the employment standards branch of the Ministry of Labour to deal with this particular legislation, unless they wanted to just rub the employers' noses in it and say: "We do not care whether you like it or not. We are going to stuff it down your throats and this is the way it is going to be." They said that on a number of the amendments; but now we are not talking about the bill, we are not talking about any amendments that would affect anything, we are just talking about who is going to administer it.

Either it wanted to make a lot more appointments, to set up a whole new bureaucracy—I admit that when I expressed that view, maybe it was something of an off-the-wall comment, but the way this government is hiring civil servants perhaps it could hire all nine million Ontarians. They would have zero unemployment, and then presumably everybody would vote for them because it gave them all a job. They are going more in that direction than they are in any responsible direction as to what we see as a responsible way to proceed in Ontario.

1540

We really thought that was a slap in the face and the last insult to what I think is for the most part—there may be one or two bad apples of any group; there is whenever you take numbers—a private sector here in Ontario that wants to abide by the law, that wants to do the right thing, that wants to be fair and wants to treat employees fairly. We felt that was maybe the last slap in the face.

We tried to make those changes. They were all turned down.

I guess I would like to indicate that our party is concerned about gender pay equity. We have expressed those concerns.

I pointed out as well last week our disappointment that for those civil servants in Ontario, the public sector, that I thought this government should be condemned for not providing that for them two years ago. That was a commitment of all three parties more than two years ago in an election.

Indeed, that could have been provided without legislation, and we have gone more than two years now where two things could have happened: one, the public sector would have been covered by pay equity; and second, we might have learned something in those two or two and a

half years. We might have learned something about ground-breaking legislation that may have made it more applicable for us to come up with a meaningful piece of legislation for the broader public sector.

Rather than taking a piece of legislation with the public, the broader public and the private sectors, rolling them all into one and phasing it out over one year, three years, seven years, and gosh knows how many years for some, we think it would have made far more sense to proceed with equal pay for work of equal value in the public sector two years ago.

Perhaps had the government been serious in wanting to really find out what problems there may be and come up with meaningful solutions, in at least a year we could have had in place pay equity legislation for the broader public sector, which we think and we have said is the way we would have proceeded. We feel it would have made a lot more sense. We feel it would have given us experiences that would have provided for a better piece of legislation, if in fact that is what is required in the private sector, after what our experiences through the public and broader public sectors demonstrated.

We do have very grave concerns about this piece of legislation. We do not think this bill is the answer in the private sector. I suspect the government is not sure either whether it is the answer, given the implementation period it has put into it, but none the less it is determined to have something it can hang on the wall that says, "Yes, we have passed something that has to do with pay equity."

I also want to tell members that I indicated we had to face reality, that we had to put forward amendments to a piece of legislation we felt should not be dealt with in the way it was being dealt with. We put those amendments as best we could and we were defeated on most of them, as members know.

Mr. Barlow: All of them.

Mr. Harris: The member for Cambridge tells me all of them.

Before I conclude, I also want to congratulate the member for Cambridge and the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Baetz), who worked so hard on behalf of our party in putting those positions forward, and the member for St. George (Ms. Fish), who has made a valuable contribution not only to this particular piece of legislation but also to this caucus and to most pieces of legislation we deal with. The member for Ottawa West and the member for Cambridge, as well, put in a lot of time on this particular piece of legislation.

I should also indicate to this Legislature that we are not going to allow one party, another party or anybody to say we are less sensitive because we are concerned about some aspects of this particular bill. We think perhaps we are more sensitive, because we have tried to put forward a timetable that we think is far in excess of this government's timetable on the public sector and would have provided experience that we feel would have helped us through the private sector.

As I indicated, we are not going to allow anybody to say that because we disagree with one part or another, or with the methodology or with many parts of this particular legislation, we are not sensitive and cognizant of the fact that there is some gender pay inequity out there.

In closing, I want to indicate very clearly to this Legislature that our party and a future Conservative government would take a long look at this particular piece of legislation to see whether we could not find a better way to achieve the goals this legislation purports to address.

Mr. Rae: I want to participate, if only very briefly, in this third reading discussion, because we have come such a long way in the last two years. It is worth recalling that the Liberal Party agreed, after a long period of negotiation and certainly following a history when both our parties were in opposition, that there was a very strong commitment to equal pay in the public sector and a slightly more ambivalent one in the private sector.

It is interesting to notice that it has taken us two years to get this far. We had a real struggle to convince the Liberals and, in effect, to lever the Liberal Party into combining both pieces of legislation so that we would ensure that private sector workers were not left behind, which would have been the effect of the Liberal plan.

Interjection.

Mr. Rae: The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) says, "What would we do without you?" I can only say to the minister that I sometimes think it would cause the people of the province some terror to reflect on that. We can tell what they would do. They have the Premier's Council, the \$100-million zinger, which they did on their own, without the accord. Apart from that, I do not think he can point to one major legislative item in these last two years which has not reflected the negotiations that went into the accord.

I do want to say that this legislation is not the final word. It seems to me it is the first effort of the Legislature and the first effort on the part of the Liberal Party to deal with this question, the

first effort to face up to the problem of inequality between men and women in the work place. It is a piece of legislation which in our view is long overdue, but nevertheless is really only a very partial solution to the massive inequity which exists between men and women in the work place.

1550

The legislation does not deal with the problem of low pay; and let us be quite blunt about it: low pay is the problem that simply will not go away. It is interesting to notice that not only this bill does not deal with the problem of low pay; we also have the pension legislation, which does not deal with the problem of people with low pay who do not have pensions; and the severance pay legislation, which does not deal with the problem of those workers who are now going to be without any protection at all in the work force simply because of their vulnerability.

I must confess that this historic day is a day of mixed feelings. Let me say, though, that there is one feeling I have which is not at all mixed, and that is to pay tribute to my colleague the member for Ottawa Centre, who has done a really outstanding job, not only on behalf of our party and working women in Ontario but also on behalf of all Ontarians, in seeing that this legislation has come forward in the way it has.

I know that the member for Ottawa Centre is also somebody who is experiencing some mixed feelings today with respect to this legislation. Indeed, in that regard, she shares the feelings of all the members of our party when it comes to this legislation. We are in the position of knowing perfectly well that if we had not pushed for the bill in its current form—that is to say, one bill covering both sectors, public and private—there are a great many private sector workers who, by this time in June 1987, would have had nothing. Nothing would have been planned, and nothing would have been forthcoming from the Liberal Party of Ontario. Of that, I am completely convinced.

We also know that this legislation is flawed. It excludes a lot of women, it excludes a lot of work places and it has built into it many delays in terms of its implementation. We know, and this is going to be extremely important, that there is nothing in the bill which protects employees generally from having to pay in a sense for Liberal Party legislation. There is nothing here which ensures that it will be employers who will have to set money aside with respect to implementing this legislation rather than simply

taking the money out of the pockets of men who are working, and that is an enormous problem.

We know that a great many of these issues are still going to be settled at the bargaining table and will depend on the labour movement's commitment with respect to equity and on the labour movement's ability to negotiate fair agreements. So it is something where, when it comes to unorganized employees, when it comes to many work sites where there are no bargaining committees and no one to bargain, we know there are going to be many opportunities for continuing unfairness.

Having said that, I do want to point to the future. It is impossible for us to see this as the last word. It seems to me this must be seen as the first step, a first step which must be put in the context of two other very important, not only pieces of legislation but also social concepts which, together and working together, will create a world of greater equality than the one in which we live.

Pay equity is obviously the first. We have to have a policy in this province which ensures, when it comes to the evaluation of jobs, that there is no discrimination between men and women and that we attempt to establish definitions of jobs and the worth of jobs that are, as much as is humanly possible, free of any of the historical discrimination against women's work which has been so much a part of our work force, as it has been in the rest of the industrial world.

That is only part of the battle. There are two other parts that we have to address, which we addressed in the accord but which the government has yet to address in fact. The first of these of course is the question of child care. If we cannot deal with the historical double standard with respect to the raising of children, and if we as a society do not make it perfectly clear that men and women share that obligation equally and that it is up to the community generally to provide the supports that need to be there in terms of the raising of children so it is not the common expectation that women alone will bear responsibility for the raising of children, unless we make those changes, we will not be moving to a more equal world in terms of the world of work. So it is fair to say that child care is, as much as anything else, a vital part of this strategy for general overall equality between men and women.

Finally, I am a great believer that it is only when our society embraces the notion of affirmative action and embraces the notion of job fairness, employment equity, whatever you want to call it, so that we have in place in the world of

work, as in the world of housing, as in the world of the family, some basic understanding of the discrimination that has existed until now and of the need for us to break down that discrimination, that we will deal with the problem of inequality in terms of wages and in working conditions between men and women.

We have, for example, one per cent or less of apprenticeships in a great many trades occupied by women. There is no reason women cannot become electricians. There is no reason women cannot be working in those occupations which are now, for sociological and for other reasons, in effect barred to women. Unless we break down those barriers of discrimination, all the pay equity in the world will not bring about the kind of equality we want to see.

The next step is twofold: to move in the field of child care and to move in the field of employment equity. These are the areas where the government simply has to move, where public policy has to move, and where this piece of legislation must be seen simply as very much a first step.

Let me conclude by saying it has been a long haul. It has taken a lot to drag the Liberal Party and to drag the cabinet and the government to the point where they are prepared to bring in this legislation and actually make it happen. It has been part of the process of the last two years. It has taken this long to get it there. It is one thing to drag the Liberal Party horse to water; it is another thing to get it to lie down on its back and kick its legs in the air. That is precisely what we are seeing at the moment: a great deal of reluctance on the part of the Liberals to move.

Nevertheless, it is something which I think this House will mark as a day of importance, if only because we are going to be coming back to this legislation and improving it, changing it and constantly reforming it, so that one day we will have genuine legislation with respect to equal pay for work of equal value.

Hon. Mr. Scott: A number of honourable members have pointed out that this is a historic day. I propose to say something about that shortly.

Let me just say that if a resident of my constituency came here on this great day to hear this debate, I believe he or she would be surprised at the form the debate takes and would have a number of questions to ask me about it.

The first thing he or she would say is: "Why is it that the members all make self-serving statements designed to show how brilliant, bright and intelligent they are, while at the same time denying those qualities of conscience and intelli-

gence to others? Why is it that those who say the legislation is terrible will stand up in the end to vote for it? Why is it that legislation that is universally condemned by a majority of the House will pass unanimously?" The answer is that this is the political process. The political process achieves a significant end game on this particular occasion.

As I speak to the passage of pay equity, I want very much to have with me, supporting me, a number of people. The member for St. George has worked hard for this bill and the principle for which it stands, and whatever may befall her or me in the next year, she is entitled to say with some credit, "I stood for pay equity," and is entitled to the public respect that brings. The second person is the member for Ottawa Centre, not of my party, who was prepared to excoriate me at every turn, but who, it must be said, has exhibited a long-term commitment to the principle for which this bill stands, and this House owes her credit.

1600

Having said that, I want to draw to me, because they were important support for me in this bill, my colleague and very dear friend the member for Oriole (Ms. Caplan), who is sitting to my right, and the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Ward), who is sitting in the back, who brought this bill through committee and through the cabinet, because they are, as are members of my caucus, as committed to the principle for which this bill stands, like it or not, as the member for St. George or the member for Ottawa Centre. I do them honour.

One other person whose name I think should be mentioned in this context—and I am sure the member for St. George and the member for Ottawa Centre would agree—is Sheila Copps, now gone from this House, to whom this bill was an important and significant commitment.

I should also draw to the attention of the House that my experience with women's issues is not long. I remember, in 1985, in the campaign, when the member for Oriole, at an all-candidates meeting at which I was not present, raised the issue of pay equity—it was then called equal pay for work of equal value—and said, "That is going to be a symbolic enactment of critical importance to our party as we move forward." We were not near government at the time.

I heard her, I understood her point, and when the time came in St. David riding for me to make a little plastic recording which could carry one message to the people of my riding, the message

on that, thanks to the member for Oriole, had to do with the importance of pay equity in Ontario.

So whatever may be said about the member for Ottawa Centre and the member for St. George, our party, like them, shares a major commitment to pay equity.

There is one point to be made today. If there was ever a day that separated our generation of Ontario from the generations that have gone before us, it is this day. It is here today that, unless the members of the opposition act according, apparently, to their consciences, we will be passing pay equity and at the same time giving final reading at second stage to freedom of information. Those two bills, I respectfully suggest, distinguish our generation of Ontario, this assembly, from those that have gone before it.

Let me say one other thing. There are other people who have committed themselves to this process, who have worked hard and to whom I am extremely grateful. First is the Ontario women's directorate. Glenna Carr, the head of that directorate when we came into office, and Elaine Todres, the head of it now, worked long and hard with their staffs over this two years to make what is happening today possible.

Supporting them has been a range of women's organizations across Ontario, from our own Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, of which Sam Ion is the chairman, to the Equal Pay Coalition, of which Mary Cornish is the chairman, all of which have dedicated themselves to this principle and its enactment, its enshrinement in legislative form. I have been delighted to participate in the process, working, I know, for something they hold very dear.

What we have seen in Ontario in the last quarter century is a fundamental social change. Twenty-five years ago, only 25 per cent of the full-time working force was female; it is now up to 44 per cent, and shortly before the year 2000, a majority of full-time working people in Ontario will be women. It is axiomatic—it has been demonstrated a dozen times—that they suffer from often unconscious gender discrimination. The purpose of this act is to begin the process of remedying that significant human and economic wrong.

We began in this Legislature with Bill 105, which was restricted to the Ontario public service; it became amalgamated, effectively, with this bill. In the bill before us there is a remedy for women in the public sector, in the broader public sector and for 85 per cent of the women in the private sector of Ontario. The point

I make is that there is no bill in a proactive form in Canada that goes this far.

When members of the third party tell us the bill is inadequate, we will want to recall that in the three jurisdictions in Canada where they have had the reins of power, they have not gone as far as this bill. I am delighted to have their support, but they will want to tell their colleagues in Saskatchewan and British Columbia, and even now governing in Manitoba, there is nothing to fear about taking pay equity to the private sector, as we now propose to do, and there is a lot to commend it. The speech of my friend the honourable leader of the third party should be made, not here, where action is being taken, but in Manitoba, where no action is being taken.

We have made an important and significant start. We have undertaken a significant social change. We are doing something that is right and just and important for women, and I believe we are doing it in a way that will permit Ontario's economy to thrive and prosper and create jobs.

I want to say last that I am very grateful to all members of the House who have made a positive contribution to this bill, who have supported it at one stage or another, who have come to me or my colleagues and said, "That bill is right and we hope it succeeds," and who have participated actively in the work of the committee.

I think today is an important day, not only in Ontario history but also in Canadian history. We have before us the first truly proactive pay equity legislation for the public and private sectors in North America, and I am delighted to ask all honourable members of the House to join in assuring its passage.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Elston moved third reading of Bill 190, An Act to amend the Mental Health Act.

Mr. Andrewes: I rise to indicate our support for Bill 190. I do this with reference to the debate that took place in the committee. I think perhaps it is in the interests of everybody to put on the record some of the activities that took place in that committee, so that all parties concerned in this legislation understand what took place over the last three weeks of hearings and what took place last week during the clause-by-clause study.

It was an effective hearing. We had a number of delegations that made a number of pertinent arguments to the legislation and to the whole issue of the Mental Health Act and more

particularly the issue of what is known as the competent override. Arguments were made about the fairness of this bill, about the fairness and the wisdom of taking away from patients who suffer from mental illness—patients who it has been determined have the ability to make their own decisions although they are suffering from mental illness—the right to decide whether or not they should undergo treatment, and whether it is any fairer to take away that right to make decisions in the case of a patient suffering from a mental ailment than it is from one who suffers from a physical ailment.

1610

Arguments were made on the basis of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, something we often refer to in this House, something society often refers to. Arguments—well-documented, I might say—were brought to the committee by a number of interest groups that to deny competent patients the right to decide on treatment for themselves is to deny them appropriate rights under that charter.

Arguments were made by practitioners, members of the Ontario Medical Association, Friends of Schizophrenics and representatives of nurses' groups that the decision with respect to the treatment of people with mental illness should remain with skilled practitioners, with those people who have demonstrated the ability to come to grips with these diseases and disorders, who have trained themselves in this field and who are in a position to determine the necessity of treatment, setting aside emotions, all those strong feelings that individuals and their representatives might have, to try to make those decisions in a less emotional and an attempted more objective manner.

In the final analysis, the committee came down in favour of supporting the ban on the issue of the competence override. In fact, the government members, those four members on the committee who were there to support their own legislation—or it would seem so, given the fact that it was government legislation that was being debated—chose to support the withdrawal of the clause which purported to reinstate the status quo on the competence override that had been in place prior to the amendment brought to this House under Bill 7.

If the Attorney General, the member for St. David (Mr. Scott) was astounded or expressed concern that a friend of his or the president of his riding association would have come down to this Legislature and been astounded at the manner in which the debate took place on Bill 154, he

would be even more astounded by the doublespeak that took place in the committee studying Bill 190; doublespeak that I might say existed to the point of near strangulation for those government members who were sent to that committee to support their minister and his legislation.

Let me say this: I was amazed and astounded at that turn of events. The Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) came to me some five months ago, when he first introduced Bill 190, seeking my support. The Minister of Health came to me not 10 minutes before the committee convened seeking my support. Why the change of heart?

We are told that certain members of the committee suggested they would delay the bill; they would bring in amendments that would protract the debate to the point that it might frustrate the whole purpose of the legislation. We heard that some of the advocacy groups were prepared to go before the courts of the land seeking a decision under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which would have frustrated the section of the bill that dealt with the competence override. We are told that the Minister of Health had certain evidence presented to him that would suggest the issue of competence override was one that was being blown out of all proportion.

This is not an easy issue for a caucus of any political party to deal with; it was not an easy issue for our caucus to deal with. There were many in our caucus who felt very strongly that the rights of competent patients to decide whether they should be treated were rights we should make sure are held to very dearly. There were others who felt very strongly that patients had the right to be treated, and their support for the bill was brought to our caucus on that basis.

To support that bill was not a decision our caucus made on politics, but a decision made on the basis of caring for people who are suffering from illnesses that are very, very difficult to handle in our society. Our caucus looked to its critic for advice; my advice to it was based on the appeal from medical groups, on an appeal from Ministry of Health staff who have had a wealth of experience in this area, and on an appeal from the minister himself to support this legislation.

In the final analysis, it was based on the fact that during those hearings many groups came before us and indicated that out there in the community was a lack of community-based services, a lack of support systems for these very patients we were speaking of; that to frustrate the treatment system as it is today was not in the best interests of these individuals but, rather, to bring in a more refined system that provided safe-

guards for these individuals and their rights, was the proper direction to go. Therefore, I made that recommendation to support the bill to our caucus and it accepted me at my word.

At the outset of the hearings, we asked that we be provided with accurate figures on the number of cases in which review boards in the province granted competence overrides. We never received those figures. Individual groups came forward and suggested numbers of their own, but we never received the precise figures we had requested from the Ministry of Health. I have them now. I received them after the debate in the committee was over, but I did not have them at a time it was most important, when I was going before my caucus to give my recommendation.

Why were we not provided with these figures? Why, in the interests of co-operation and understanding in this, a very nonpolitical issue, did the Minister of Health not deem it appropriate to provide the critic whose support he had asked in this legislation with the very essence of the argument?

I say to the minister, he has chosen to play a political game with an issue that cannot be played with. Needless to say, I was surprised. I was astounded. I was deceived. I am sure the members of the Liberal caucus who sat on that committee, who argued in support of that bill, who gave press interviews on the very morning the bill was being considered and indicated publicly at that time they were supporting the bill, are experiencing the same kind of feelings.

There was one other significant aspect out of all this debate which I think must go on the record. That is the fact that the public's attention and the attention of those individuals who play such a vital role in the treatment of patients suffering mental ailments is now focused on the issue, a very difficult issue, of defining competency and incompetency.

1620

We know there is a great deal of further work to be done in that regard, and it will serve all segments of our society, all people who are vitally interested, whether they are patients, practitioners, advocates, families of patients or society as a whole, it will serve all those groups well for us now to conduct in a very orderly, aggressive and fair way a discussion on the issue of competency and incompetency.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is a pleasure to enter again the discussion on this bill, as I did when we were at second reading. As the Attorney General was saying earlier, this place does seem a little strange from time to time for people looking at it

to try to determine why what is happening is actually happening.

I am now again in a position, similar to that of the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) on the last bill, of supporting something which has come in an incomplete form, which is not adequate, which speaks to a very strange inconsistency and illogicality in terms of civil rights in this province and whose history can only be described as weird and wonderful. It got curiouser and curiouser as it went along. I have even heard some new things today in terms of the dealings with the critic of the official opposition about the way he was played on this issue.

It is important to remember what has happened. Because of the Charter of Rights, Bill 7 was brought in to deal with the rights of people, to make sure that certain acts in Ontario conform to those rights now established within the charter of our country.

An amendment to the Mental Health Act which took away the right to override an incompetent person's guarantor or representative in a mental institution, a competent involuntary person's right to say, "No, I do not wish to have treatment," and the override that was in the past legislation which allowed doctors and the board to override those wishes, was moved by the member for Ottawa Centre. It recognized a pretty fundamental notion of what our basic human rights are in Ontario; that is, if you are deemed to be competent, a full citizen of the country, you have certain inalienable rights.

One of those things is to say, "No, I do not wish treatment" from some professional who believes you should have treatment. The other thing is that you have the right to appoint somebody to represent you if you are not going to be competent much longer, or the state has the right to approve somebody who has been selected as your representative to make the same decision as if he were you when you are no longer competent.

I think it was a wonderful thing that it was moved at that time and that those broad freedoms were guaranteed. Unfortunately, there was a reaction from the medical community and other groups in society to the passage of that. As a result, the Liberals, who had not necessarily been too happy about the amendment in the first place, decided it was time to bring in another bill, Bill 199, which basically said that section of our adaptation to the charter would not come into effect until June of this year. Then the lobbying started and the development of Bill 190 came forward.

I think it is very important at this stage, after many revisions to Bill 190, that members understand what the bill looked like when it came back. This bill had such an overreaction to the needs of the powers of the professionals in the system that it not only reinstituted the right of an override of a competent person and the override of an incompetent person's representative, it also extended itself out into the community and said that ex-psychiatric patients would also be denied certain rights and that they could be overridden and their desires overridden, if we can imagine it. That is what came back to us in the initial form of Bill 190.

Because of the timing of the House coming back and the normal procedures here of the need for a throne speech debate and a budget debate before we can get on with the other business, we then received a bill suggesting the extension of the June 1 deadline to a date next year, which was Bill 68. That was determined not to be an appropriate bill and so Bill 78 was brought in, which established a date of July 10, or whenever this would take place, in order to give us time to deal with the substance of Bill 190.

I think it is really important to understand that currently in Ontario the motion of the member for Ottawa Centre stands. Bill 7 is in effect as of June 1 because we have not gone to third reading on these other two procedural matters before now. For 15 glorious, dangerous days in Ontario, competent people in mental institutions had the right to say no to treatment and the representatives of incompetent people in those mental institutions had the right to say no to treatment, and the province has survived. Our doors have not been broken down here by a trembling populace that has been totally terrified by ex-psychiatric patients running amok in Ontario.

I sort of regret that we have to have the debate on Bill 190 and have the proclamation of this taking away half of those rights brought into effect today, when we know that in fact the member for Ottawa Centre was right that that was the appropriate way to deal with this.

The member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) has indicated already that we did not have the figures about how many people were involved in this, and it sure sounded as if it was going to be a terrible, dangerous thing on June 1 when these rights were going to be given to these people and all the powers taken away from the professionals in our mental health system.

Finally, on the last day we dealt with the bill, we received those figures, and basically, I have to tell members it was a handful of people in

Ontario who had ever used the override. Many times when an override was even initiated for the few that were involved, it did not have to go the whole distance because the person decided to consent in the meantime. What we learned is that the system works without it.

I thank the member for Lincoln or whoever it is who sent me the actual figures here. Would you like them, Mr. Speaker? Why do I not read them into the record?

June 1, 1986, to May 31, 1987, treatment orders: There were 16 applications and 11 orders for a patient who was competent to consent to treatment. There were 18 applications and 16 orders for a patient incompetent to consent to treatment and the nearest relative refused the consent. There were 41 applications and 31 orders for a patient incompetent to consent to treatment but with no relative available. That was for the entire year.

What we saw in committee was this amazing turnaround where the government members were so anxious to prove the case of the need for this override that they hauled up Gilbert Sharpe, the lawyer for the ministry, and set him down beside the parliamentary assistant. Whenever questions were asked of her, they were turned to him as the expert. He attacked and took on David Baker from the Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped, or anybody else who came on as an expert, and savaged them in terms of their approach and their civil-libertarian view of this whole issue—until the last day. On the last day, going into committee, we discovered all of a sudden that in fact they were relenting on half of the issue.

1630

I find it really quite strange that we have this notion of rights of psychiatrically ill people in the province. We now say that a competent involuntary patient, who was described to me by the lawyer for the ministry as necessarily dangerous by definition of the involuntary nature when the government was trying to argue for the fact that this person should not be given this kind of right, now may be allowed to vote in Ontario in certain circumstances. Many of them did vote in the last election. They have the right to choose us as their representatives who can then make laws to affect their lives, but they do not have the right to say no to treatment and they do not have the right even to decide how they will spend pocket money in a psychiatric institution.

Now we have decided to say that those people will be given the right to say no. That is the compromise by the Liberal government, that

they should be allowed to say no. The government acceded to the request by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville), to the other groups, to the basic civil rights premise that was out there, without a huge explanation, but just saying, "We are now convinced," after days of attacking anybody who came forward with that notion.

Strangely—and I am glad the Attorney General is here, because in legal terms I find this really astounding—they have said that anybody who is deemed to be incompetent and has a representative, a guardian of some sort, somebody who is there as his official representative, that person's representative can still be overridden. I find that really strange. Have we somehow changed our notion of what guardianship is about? Are we not saying that guardians in this field have the same kind of rights; that is to say, they are that person and can exercise that person's civil rights in this case? Why have we made the distinction?

I will tell members why it has been done; and it has been done for the wrong reason, as was the case of the override. The override was brought in not to take away civil rights, as we have seen. They have said now that they do not want to do that. It was done because it was so difficult to determine competency.

The real issue was, is a person competent to make a real decision about treatment or not? Now they have admitted that this was the problem and that it should not be dealt with by an override of a person's right to refuse consent. In fact, you have to be sure that your definitions of competency are correct. They have now moved to the other question, which is, how do you guarantee that somebody who is going to represent somebody is an appropriate representative? Because they have difficulty with that notion, they have decided to take away the rights of all the parents of schizophrenics in the province, who are their representatives, and say, "At any time we can override and you have to go before a board." I think it is madness—members caught the irony of that?—and I implore the government at the last moment. I think it is really silly for it to think in those terms.

Surely what the government wants to do is put into Bill 190 a better means of making sure that there are appropriate guardians or appropriate representatives. If the government's fear is that a 16-year-old in the institution who is determined to be incompetent has chosen a 16-year-old ex-psychiatric patient to be his representative and that kid is going to say no to anything that is being handed out, let it admit that is its problem and deal with the issue of the quality of representa-

tion. But it should not take away the rights of parents of schizophrenics to be able to say: "No, I do not want my son to have electroshock. I accept the notion of him having the chemicals, but not electroshock."

What the government has effectively done here is to say that if a doctor says electroshock is the only thing that will help, the parent is going to have to prove before a board that the doctor is wrong. The onus is on the parent to prove the doctor's decision is not appropriate. The weight of law is in favour of the doctor. It is so ironic, when one considers that it was parents of schizophrenics who came before us concerned about the wide open nature of what had been proposed by the member for Ottawa Centre, that it is exactly they who can be victimized now. It is not the person who is determined to be competent, but the parent of a child who is determined to be incompetent is now the one who can be overridden and whose civil rights as the child's natural representative can be taken away.

I would suggest that it does not take much to amend this act to make sure our list of people who can be representatives—which we have now added to and which I think is a great improvement to what was there before, especially with the amendment from the member for Riverdale to add the official guardian when nobody else is involved—to make sure we put in some kind of qualitative control. We can debate that and try to work it out. Goodness knows, the member for Riverdale gave us enough other assistance in this act, as he brought forward amendment after amendment to make what was coming forward a much more workable piece of legislation.

So I stand here today, saying, "We are getting half the cake and we will support it," but it leaves me with a very sick feeling in my stomach that our view of charter rights would distinguish so sharply between the competent patient and the incompetent person's representative in a way that we do not do in any other legislation I know of. For the life of me, I cannot understand why the members have not understood that they are attacking the wrong issue.

I promised the member for Riverdale I would not speak at length on this, that I would go back to my committee and be a good boy and deal with heritage languages, as I am supposed to do now. But I would not want to step down without saying there are very few times in the Legislature when an individual member, especially an opposition member, has a chance to be very effective in changing a government's mind and in bringing forward some progressive action, especially in

an area where people are so highly vulnerable and have so few advocates or people who speak for them as the psychiatrically disabled.

I think the combination of work done by the member for Ottawa Centre and, after the turnaround and the attack on what she thought she had accomplished, the amazing work of the member for Riverdale in working with groups in the community and with legislative counsel here is something I have not seen before.

Knowing, as I and all members of this caucus do, the passion of the member for Riverdale around this issue—his deep, deep involvement with this issue for many, many years—I just wish that we had got the whole thing and that we did not have this one matter still left hanging, where parents and loved ones of people who are so vulnerable in the institutions may actually be second-guessed by professionals who mean well, but, by goodness, do not have the answers in this area by any means.

I just regret we were not able to have the total victory and get this act to be what I think in other terms would probably be the best piece of protection for patients that we might see in the western world.

Mr. Reville: This is a seminal moment in my political life and I feel very emotional about this moment.

I want to start by thanking my dear friend and colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) for his kind remarks. I note that the member for Lincoln spoke mainly about the politics of making legislation and my colleague from Scarborough West alluded to some of the politics of making this particular piece of legislation.

I, however, would like to talk about the politics of mental health because, in the end, that is what our exercise has been about. The exercise was begun by the member for Ottawa Centre as she struggled valiantly to make our mental health legislation conform to all the accepted notions of human rights, and in particular, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. She very nearly succeeded, if only momentarily, last December in giving us mental health legislation that we could be proud of in this province.

1640

Seven months later, after what I have described as a good deal of toing and froing, we have come almost full circle. I regret, as does the member for Scarborough West, the fact that we have stopped some degrees short of the full circle, back to Bill 7 in December 1986.

As I look at the legislation, as I look at the amendments that were led by the government and the amendments I led myself, I think that with one exception we now have a fine piece of mental health legislation. While I deeply regret the fact that a substitute decision-maker of an incompetent patient may still be overridden in this province, probably starting again today after the 15 glorious days the member for Scarborough West alluded to, I do expect that in this case there is a parent in Ontario who is lucky enough to own a pinstriped suit, who will be able to secure counsel and who will, in fact, lead a charter challenge of this section without much delay. I find it ironic that in this one area the government was not persuaded to go all the way towards human rights.

Some members of the House may know that the reason I am in politics is because I was a mental patient. In the Ontario psychiatric hospital system, I had occasion to learn the power structure of that system. I had occasion to understand, in a very permanent way, what the absolute lack of power feels like.

I would say that anyone who alleges that a competent person should be overridden is not talking about care; he is talking about power. I do not think there is any other conclusion that could be drawn. If there is anyone in the House who doubts that, then probably the only way he could ever find out is by spending some time as an involuntary patient in a psychiatric unit or a psychiatric hospital. He would discover that every single aspect of his life and decisions thereon have been removed from him, in a system that is so antitherapeutic, in spite of the best efforts of the science of the day, that another entire burden is placed on the person who has already suffered from some kind of crisis considered to be severe enough to require hospitalization.

I feel fortunate that I was able to return to some kind of control over my life some years after I managed to get out of the psychiatric hospital; in fact, it was the Ontario Hospital in Kingston. I often wonder why I was so lucky, because a great many of the people with whom I talk each week have not been so lucky and, in fact, find themselves back in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric units of general hospitals with the kind of frequency that should make us all ashamed.

If there was one point that was underscored in the hearings we had on the matter of Bill 190, it was the irony of discussing forced treatment for 11 people in the one case and for 18 people in the

other case, of the two cases we are dealing with, while in Ontario the gaps and inadequacies of our community mental health programming are in fact contributing to the crises that land people in hospital.

The Community Mental Health Programs Federation saw this problem so clearly that it offered for the committee's edification what amounted to a community mental health bill of rights and a model for implementing that bill of rights. Regrettably, when I moved that amendment, it was ruled out of order because the Mental Health Act, and the way our legislation often works, I regret, is about rights rather than entitlements.

One of the interesting things about the debate around these issues is that the most passionate, most anguished and most despairing input often comes from the friends and relatives of people suffering from mental illness—in particular, in the most organized sense, from the Friends of Schizophrenics chapters and divisions in Canada and in Ontario.

There is no question the Friends of Schizophrenics have often been concerned about what they see as perhaps rights that are given to their relatives that may impede in some way the hopes they have for the recovery of their relatives, but when one has a chance to explore further, what is clear is that the Friends of Schizophrenics are really taking issue with the fact that their relatives have no right to treatment in the first place.

Time after time, they recount real-life stories, stories of disappointment and anguish, sometimes of terror and sometimes of death. When you follow the stories through to their conclusion, you discover the problem is that they know their son, daughter, husband, wife, aunt or niece has gone into a crisis and the system has been inadequate to respond to that crisis. Perhaps the police take him to the Queen Street Mental Health Centre and half an hour later return him home because the Queen Street Mental Health Centre admitting department has said, "We cannot see there is any problem here."

More often the relative is discharged after a week or two in the hospital. The immediate crisis has been stabilized through the generous use of psychotropic medication, and the person, at that moment stable, is discharged into an environment that is inherently destabilizing. That person is discharged into a crummy rooming house. That person goes out on the street with inadequate income and with nothing much to do except, inevitably, to decline and end up back at Queen Street again, more demoralized, I might

add, than at the first admission and probably a lot more reluctant to accept the tender mercies being offered in that hospital.

1650

This alarm I am raising today should be no news to any member of this Legislature, but I regret to say that on issues of mental health and the problems therein the Legislature as a whole does not appear to be particularly well informed. If it were, how could it tolerate the fact that 94 cents of every dollar is spent on institutional care, while the remaining minging six cents is spent on community support services? Do members of the Legislature believe that people who suffer from mental illness spend most of their time in the hospital? No. Most people spend most of the time in the community.

I think it must be instructive to know that more than 60 per cent of the people currently patients at Queen Street Mental Health Centre just down the street have already been there once this year. The recidivism in mental illness in Ontario is, I think, shocking. In fact, it has been demonstrated over and over and over again that, with appropriate support in the community, people have far fewer rehospitalizations and, in fact, a far better prognosis for complete recovery. Yet this government and the one before it have failed time and time again to acknowledge what should be by now a truism: If you discharge a person to nothing, then very soon you will have him back again.

That speaks to the whole question, it seems to me, of empowerment. If on the one hand this government is belatedly prepared to say that a competent person has the right to make decisions about his treatment, should not that same person on discharge from hospital have the right to make some decisions about his future? Is it not the responsibility of this government to make sure that people can make decisions about their housing, their employment, their recreation, their education and the kind of treatment available to them in the community to help them deal with crises and resist further debilitating hospitalization?

This is an issue that is not going to go away. As the Ontario Friends of Schizophrenics pointed out to us, for every schizophrenic in hospital there are four in the community. As I have discovered in talking to a psychologist who is just putting the finishing touches on a paper studying schizophrenics in Ontario, there is a reasonably high percentage of schizophrenics in Ontario managing to live independently. A significant percentage of schizophrenics must live at home

because our society basically has left their parents out to dry, without any help to deal with this problem. Those families that are very strong and are able to put extraordinary energy into providing the supports needed for their relatives have quite often done our job for us. But I suspect that as time goes on, the Canadian Friends of Schizophrenics, the Ontario Friends of Schizophrenics and the chapters that belong thereto will begin to put together a lobby for community mental health programs that I, for one, hope will be irresistible.

One of the very rewarding aspects of the fact of the debate on the Mental Health Act has been the coming together of a coalition that cares about community mental health that we have not seen before. It is a coalition that includes the professional social workers, the psychologists and the people who provide community mental health programming and who in fact provide it under difficult circumstances. There is not one community mental health program in Ontario that does not have an intolerable waiting list and that is not suffering at the hands of administrative incompetence from the Ministry of Health so that their budgets arrive following the fiscal year and other tomfoolery like that.

The coalition is joined by an increasing group of advocates, not only the legal advocates but also advocates like the Justice for Children organization.

I was very impressed and I must say heartened by the work of the office of the psychiatric patient advocate. This is a branch of the Ministry of Health which was absolutely adamant that competent override must not stay in the bill. I was among those who were modestly sceptical, when the psychiatric patient advocate office was established, that it might not be able to be independent, seeing that the co-ordinator was going to report to the minister. In fact, in this case it showed itself to be capable of not only independence but also a good deal of vehemence about its point of view.

I was delighted to see that, and I want to include in my congratulatory message the kindest possible congratulations to the office of the psychiatric patient advocate and the people who work there, as well as to the other members of the coalition, who came together and in fact proposed a number of amendments which have found their way into Bill 190 and the Mental Health Act.

There is no question that the debate between the best interests of a person and the autonomy of a person is a valid debate. Our society is going to

have to struggle with that. As long as there are people in society who are vulnerable, and I suppose that even with a much more democratic division of resources, there will always be some who at some time or another are vulnerable in society, we are going to have to struggle as legislators with the tension that exists between best interests on the one hand—in other words, what kind of intervention is tolerable in order to ensure that a person is going to survive to take his rights back again—and on the other hand, the absolute right of a person to decide his fate. In some cases, I suppose we are going to have to say yes, people have the right to make foolish decisions and decisions that might even in fact be life-threatening.

The dilemma with the best-interests test is, who is the Solomon-like figure who can decide anyone else's best interests? Should it be a psychiatrist, for instance? In fact, what we heard from some of the psychiatrists was that they really did not want to have that responsibility. What they wanted to do was to deliver care. They did not want to have to be involved in decisions that might result in the deprivation of someone's liberty or autonomy.

1700

We have seen what happens in other jurisdictions. I think of New York City, for instance, where services for ex-psychiatric patients are so inadequate that police round up ex-psychiatric patients armed with nets. I shudder at the thought of importing to Ontario that kind of response to a problem. Also in New York City, in the cold nights in winter, people are arrested and taken to a place and guarded therein so that in the morning they can be let out. The societal interest that has been protected is that those people will at least not freeze overnight. It is, however, an interesting response to a social and economic question of justice. Why is it that 50,000 people in New York City have nowhere to live? Is arresting them the way to solve the problem?

I do not think it is the way to solve the problem and I do not think it is the way to solve the problem here in Ontario either. I think we do know the way to solve the problem, and that is to take a look at our community mental health programming. We have some excellent programs in the province that do the job they were intended to do, but the coverage is spotty and inadequate and, in many places in this province, absolutely nonexistent. If one happens to be unfortunate enough to go into crisis north of the French River, the best advice I can give to that person is, "Get yourself to Toronto as fast as

possible and hope you are one of the lucky ones who can get in on some of the crisis services available there."

I want to conclude by saying that it has especially been a pleasure for me to have joined the tag team of the member for Ottawa Centre, and I was very pleased to be able to take the tag from her and try to carry on with the work she did all last fall.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to speak for a few, brief moments to the Minister of Health on this bill. I have had the sad experience of having a member of my family who had to go into the Homewood Sanitarium in Guelph, and I know some of the concerns that have been expressed by the member for Riverdale, the member for Scarborough West and the member for Ottawa Centre.

There is a feeling by the patients; a sense of uncertainty, even a sense of fear of the powers of the doctors. These are people who have had no experience in a hospital such as this. It is something new to them, and when they are locked in and under the control of the doctors, they have great foreboding about what is going to happen to them.

Members have talked about the implications of the powers of doctors over patients, and it is very true. That is a fear these people have. It is something I was not knowledgeable about, and I question very much whether many of the members in this House would be knowledgeable about it or would ever have had the experience to know anything about the nature of this concern, but it is very real and it is very much of concern to the people who are involved.

In this particular institution there is a young lad, 17 years of age, who has no father. He has never known his father. He has had foster mothers, but I think even his last foster mother has given up on him. He is only 17. He has no future. He has no hope. I truly do not know what will come of the lad, because we are just not prepared in society to look after him. There is a real need. This is just one out of 30 people I can relate to.

I have heard talk about defending their rights, the Charter of Rights defending the rights of the patient. I do not think we have to be concerned with the charter. We should think in terms of the best interests of the patients. I do not think the minister or anybody else in this Legislature wants to inflict on the patients anything other than care; I guess it is an argument over the best care possible.

The one thing we should be aware of is the fact that many of those people—in fact, I would think nearly all of them—do know what is happening, and they have concerns and they have fears. I think we have to do what we can to alleviate those and not create more problems and more anxieties for them, because they are going through a very traumatic experience. It is something we do not have to add to by granting too much power to the doctors. Unfortunately, in some cases, the doctors are not that understanding of all their patients' needs. They try, but I think they lose patience themselves with the reactions of their patients.

I simply leave it with the minister to try to look at the side of the patients as much as or even more than the side of the doctors, because we are all hoping to achieve the best results possible. I wish the minister the best of luck in his endeavours to do this with Bill 190.

Mr. Harris: I do not want to prolong this debate any longer than is necessary. Let me conclude my own remarks by saying that I concur with the remarks put forward by the the member for Lincoln and also with some of the remarks put forward by some of the members of the third party on what a shemozzle this whole process has been in the way the minister has handled it. However, we are where we are today.

As the members have heard a number of very good speeches on third reading of this bill, I wanted to say that I had indicated to the government House leader that the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) had felt very strongly about this particular bill and other bills that were part of this whole process and had wanted to comment—not at any great length; two or three minutes—on this particular piece of legislation before it went forward.

I indicated to the government House leader that the member for Leeds could not be here on Monday and thought it was understood this would be called tomorrow and not today. However, the government House leader indicated to me he forgot that, and it was scheduled for today. In view of that, I think we have been able to proceed, we have been able to get a number of the speeches out of the road and covered, and fine speeches they were. I know everybody would want to extend the same privilege to the member for Leeds, so I move the adjournment of the debate.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Nipissing has moved adjournment of the debate.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Hon. Mr. Elston: This has been a situation which has been an educational experience for me because in many ways the legislation in terms of Bill 190 has come out of a great number of misunderstandings, a number of misinterpretations, with respect to what was being voted on when the amendment about Bill 7 was presented last December.

1710

I had indicated at that time to the member for Ottawa Centre and to the member for Lincoln that we had passed an amendment without what I thought was adequate public discussion concerning the various aspects of the Mental Health Act which Bill 7 dealt with in a very particular manner. I had indicated as soon as the vote had been taken—in fact, probably right after the vote and certainly within a very short time, maybe a day or two later—that I felt Bill 7 had been amended inappropriately because there was no time to go through the deliberations which we have now gone through as a Legislative Assembly.

We did talk with the Ontario Psychiatric Association, with the Ontario Medical Association, with the patient advocate groups, with the people from the Ontario Friends of Schizophrenics. We did hear from them in the legislative process, in a very open and public forum, as I had indicated to my colleague the member for Ottawa Centre and others that I thought we should.

We have gone and discussed the items which were extremely important to the Friends of Schizophrenics. We have been able to hear their stories, and although my friend the member for Riverdale is not here at the moment, the stories were alluded to in a very feeling, sensitive and passionate way by him in the telling or the recounting of some of those presentations. He is without a doubt a very passionate advocate of his position on mental health services in this province, and he went through, at some length, what he felt was an appropriate way for us to determine allocation of resources in that regard. His interventions have been extremely helpful.

The interventions of the Friends of Schizophrenics have been very helpful. The interventions of the people who were involved in delivering care, the psychiatrists, have been very helpful, because they brought to our committee the opportunity of discussing for a very short time—necessarily a short time, I guess—the

concerns that were raised as issues in a piece of legislation designed to answer a bill which was, from my standpoint, passed without adequately hearing from those groups.

We have done that. For that, I make no apology whatsoever. We have here now a piece of legislation which, I am told, is probably amended to a form which is in advance of any other of the jurisdictions in the nation of Canada. That is a very positive step forward for Ontario.

Ms. Gigantes: We would never have had it if we had not amended Bill 7. That's the only reason we got it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The member for Ottawa Centre makes the introduction of a few comments which I acknowledge in terms of her role in making us consider, to an extent, the realms of possibilities for legislative change. That is what this Legislative Assembly is about. Bills are brought forward, points of view are expressed, but from my standpoint, they must be expressed with the participation of the groups that are also involved in delivering care, that are delivering service to the people of the province.

Ms. Gigantes: You were the people who were amending the Mental Health Act. Why didn't you—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think we would see that this very full opportunity to canvass the issues over the last couple of weeks in the committee which was headed by the member for Scarborough West has been of such a nature that it has focused our attention on some of the good points of discussion that we now must follow up. Even if the member is not happy with this bill in its entirety, there are a number of people who are quite well pleased with the number of positive steps that are involved in the passage of Bill 190.

In fact, I was quite surprised that my colleagues, as they spoke to other issues not yet addressed and not yet fully understood and developed, were unable to bring themselves forward at least to speak about the positive aspects of Bill 190. All the members would like to know, I am sure, that at one point I canvassed the possibility of not proceeding with Bill 190 but of getting on particularly and precisely with determining the question of competency, which is also an issue we must attack with—I am not sure about aggressiveness, but certainly with some degree of sincerity, to reach the conclusion of how we deal with that very important issue.

The members opposite failed to indicate that there were positive parts of this legislation, and

there are positive parts to Bill 190. There have been very thoughtful people who have assisted me in my consultations beforehand and who have recommended to me that I make sure Bill 190 moves forward and that we do the things that have to be done to get on with the other issues.

Ms. Gigantes: You know that is not the case. You heard what they said.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Now, the member for Ottawa Centre is being obviously provocative.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Obviously, from my point of view, the member is not to be addressed other than with the most sensitive degree of respect for her strongly held position with respect to Bill 7, but I can see that she would probably like to indicate a number of the positive parts of Bill 190 that she has not been able to express.

We also have, from my standpoint, a lot of work to do with respect to our community mental health services. I agree with my friend the member for Riverdale on that. There are, without doubt, very many variations on the themes, but all of us are committed to putting more resources into community mental health programs. We realize the situation that exists in the community in terms of need.

We have very many challenges ahead of us, as we deal with mental health and the treatment thereof in the province of Ontario and in the nation of Canada. We have seen deliberations take effect not that long ago in Ontario, where they were dealing with a uniform code with respect to the establishment of a mental health act for the whole of Canada. There are a number of positive steps from Bill 190 and there is a lot of good being done in Bill 190. It is an attempt by a committee to reach a balanced approach to delivering care for those people in need of mental health services.

I thank the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson) for his brief but insightful deliberations, his assistance in regard to the people who are involved in caring for members of their families. The concerns that are expressed there are ones which, if all of us had been in the committee during the deliberations, we would have found, as the family members, the Friends of Schizophrenics, for instance, were making their presentations. I can understand and appreciate the need to do more. In fact, we are doing more. I understand the context within which the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel presented his remarks and his comments.

We have some difficult problems with respect to striking that balance. There is no question at all

about that, in my mind. Specific difficulties arise with respect to who is competent, how the competency is determined and how we deal with assessing the way in which a decision has been made. People have told me the difficulty with some people suffering from schizophrenia is that they are unable to progress or to remain in voluntary community services, or to accept those services of a voluntary nature, because of the nature of their illness. This puts extra pressure on the delivery of services to schizophrenics and otherwise through our voluntary community services system. It means we have to struggle harder, to do more, to make sure our programs react to their needs.

It was difficult for me to sit in on the presentation by the Friends of Schizophrenics and listen to the mother of a son who committed suicide in a rather gruesome manner, as was described in that committee, and not believe that she had a sense of duty to that son to express to me, as Minister of Health, that there is a need to have an avenue to question the wisdom of someone making a decision not to accept treatment. That was the message in that presentation. There are obviously also messages that were underlined by the member for Riverdale.

1720

In those presentations, I see a frustration born out of wanting to help and being unable to; a frustration born out of seeing legislation being introduced with promise but which has not made it easier for the parents; a frustration out of love so real and so genuine that I expect none of us as individuals, if we have never had to experience it ourselves, can ever imagine. It was in the context of this that the deliberations of this committee with respect to how to handle the right to override decisions by a patient requiring mental health services were taken and were made.

We have had the debate, the presentations and the clause-by-clause, and now we have a piece of legislation.

Mr. McClellan: We have had the third-reading speeches as well.

Hon. Mr. Elston: As the honourable member says, we have had the third-reading speeches as well.

There are important things left to be done. I agree with those other people who made their 25- or 30-minute interventions that there is more to be done. I would like to list a number of things that must be done for mental health services in this province.

Suffice it to say that I think we now can move forward to deal with some of these issues in a

more sensitive manner and in a more complete manner with the passage of Bill 190. I thank the people who participated in the committee work. It is not easy to put personal experiences in front of the public and show the degree of difficulty parents have with children who are not well, being unable to receive treatment for them.

I appreciate the legal advice that has been received. I thank those people who are practitioners who also play an extremely important role in our system and who came to the committee and provided us with information.

I am pleased to be here to move third reading and look forward to the passage of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

House in committee of the whole.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT (continued)

Consideration of Bill 34, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy.

Mr. Chairman: We have in front of us Bill 34. When we last broke, we were on section 72, the motion of the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling).

Hon. Mr. Scott: May I ask unanimous consent to return to section 10a?

Mr. Chairman: Is there unanimous consent to revert to section 10a?

Ms. Gigantes: When we last met as a committee, the amendment of the member for Carleton-Grenville to subsection 72(1) was on the floor. I was about to move a subamendment to that section, which I would be quite prepared to do now and then agree to go back to section 10a for further discussion.

Mr. Sterling: Since the last debate when we were discussing both section 10a and section 72—section 72 is the section that proclaims the bill or puts the bill in actual place, and I was concerned that the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and his government would proclaim section by section and therefore legislate, through the use of cabinet orders, which parts of this bill would come into play and in effect become law—since that time, the Attorney General has agreed to place the intent of section 10a in section 24 of the bill and thereby allow the citizens of Ontario and any other person the right to seek information on a continuing basis.

Therefore, I would agree with the motion the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) has been kind enough to give me notice of. I will

allow her to put forward the amendment to my amendment.

My motion on section 72 still stands. I expect an amendment to my amendment by the member for Ottawa Centre, which we will support.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, but we are still discussing the—

Ms. Gigantes: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I indicated when I spoke earlier that we had a motion on the floor when this committee adjourned. The motion was an amendment by the member for Carleton-Grenville to subsection 72(1).

Mr. Chairman: It is in order for any honourable member to ask for unanimous consent. That is not saying you were not on the floor.

Ms. Gigantes: That is fine. I think I have indicated, for my part, that I would prefer to deal with the amendment that is before us by way of a subamendment before granting, readily, the request of the government to return to section 10.

Mr. Chairman: All it took when unanimous consent was requested was to say no. That would have saved us all this, I take it.

Ms. Gigantes: We wanted you to understand why we were saying no, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: To the chair, it does not matter why you say no.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Could I speak to the point of order, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The issue here is the assumption that if section 72 is amended before section 10a is amended, someone will take advantage of it or, if 10a is amended before 72 is amended, somebody will take advantage of that. I want to put the government's position, which is that if the amendments I anticipate are made to section 10a, we will agree to a section 72 which reads:

"This act comes into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor or on the first day of January 1988, whichever comes first."

That being so, I withdraw my request for unanimous consent.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

On section 72:

Mr. Chairman: I understand that the member for Carleton-Grenville has given the floor, so to speak, to the member for Ottawa Centre, who is going to put an amendment to his amendment.

Ms. Gigantes moves that the amendment to subsection 72(1) proposed by the member for

Carleton-Grenville be amended by striking out all the words following the word "act" in the third line and substituting therefor the words, "comes into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor or on the first day of January 1988, whichever comes first."

Ms. Gigantes: I believe my amendment to the amendment accomplishes exactly what the Attorney General has just suggested he would agree to. This subamendment accomplishes what the original motion had intended. It seems now to have the consent of the Attorney General in terms of support from the government, and I think it speaks for itself. We would like to see this act in place as quickly as possible.

Mr. Chairman: Shall Ms. Gigantes's amendment to the amendment carry?

Motion agreed to.

1730

Mr. Chairman: Shall we deal with Mr. Sterling's amendment as amended? Is there any further debate? There being none, shall Mr. Sterling's amendment to section 72, as amended, carry?

Motion agreed to.

Section 72, as amended, agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I ask unanimous consent to return to section 10a of the bill.

Mr. Chairman: Do we have unanimous consent to revert to section 10a of the bill?

Mr. Sterling: Would that also permit us to return to section 24 of the bill or do we need unanimous consent to do that as well?

Mr. Chairman: Unanimous consent has been asked only for section 10a.

Hon. Mr. Scott: After we have dealt with section 10a, I will be prepared to ask for unanimous consent to return to section 24.

Mr. Chairman: Is there unanimous consent to revert to section 10a?

Agreed to.

On section 10a:

Hon. Mr. Scott: What I am asking the committee of the whole to do is to take a vote on section 10a, defeating it, so that when it is defeated we may return to section 24 and introduce an amendment that is in the hands of the Conservative critic and that I understand has the support of all parties in the House. So I have nothing to say and urgently await the vote on section 10a and I vote no.

Mr. Chairman: Shall section 10a stand as part of the bill?

Section 10a negatived.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I ask for unanimous consent to return to section 24 of the bill.

Agreed to.

On section 24:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Sterling moves that section 24 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

"(3) The applicant may indicate in the request that it shall, if granted, continue to have effect for a specified period of up to two years.

"(4) When a request that is to continue to have effect is granted, the institution shall provide the applicant with:

"(a) a schedule showing dates in the specified period on which the request shall be deemed to have been received again and explaining why those dates were chosen; and

"(b) a statement that the applicant may ask the commissioner to review the schedule.

"(5) This act applies as if a new request were being made on each of the dates shown in the schedule."

Mr. Sterling: I believe this amendment puts into effect the intent of the former section 10a that we have just deleted from the bill. Under this Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, there was a clear right of a person asking for a document and then receiving an answer either in the affirmative or negative to his request. These subsections to section 24 widen the right of access so that a person may receive information from a government institution, in most cases on a continuing basis. Therefore, a person would make a request that he wanted to receive certain data or a certain kind of record over a period of time of up to two years and would receive from the head of the institution a schedule on which that information could be presented to that applicant.

The information commissioner has the right, as I understand the section, to review that schedule and make certain the schedule is reasonable in scope. If the flow of data stops, then the person applying for the information would have the right to go to the commissioner and complain about the cessation of his receiving information over a period of time. No other act I am aware of has a right to continue the flow of information. Therefore, I believe it will be good in terms of the right not only of members of the Legislative Assembly but also of members of the public to monitor programs put forward by the government and to be able to call them into

accountability, which is of course the reason this act is all about.

That is the sum total of the reasons for this amendment. I believe it strengthens the right of access to information.

Ms. Gigantes: I just indicate that for our part we will be supporting the amendment. We think it is a facet of the legislation that, for all the months and weeks of hearings, the months we have had this bill in front of us, the weeks of hearings we have gone through and all the clause-by-clause discussion and consideration, somehow simply got overlooked all the way along. It is the problem of the need for some method to provide for continuing a source of information once a request has been approved. It is a limited amendment in the sense that all we are asking for is repeats for up to two years, but I think it would provide a great convenience to some users of the legislation, so we will be supporting it.

Motion agreed to.

Section 24, as amended, agreed to.

Section 73 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Scott, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with certain amendments.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, it being almost six of the clock, can I move the adjournment of the House?

Mr. Cousens: If we got into the budget, there would still be a chance to carry on some debate.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am persuaded by that. I can hardly wait, so I would like to call item 71.

1740

INTERIM SUPPLY (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for interim supply for the period commencing July 1, 1987, and ending October 31, 1987.

Mr. Speaker: The member for York Centre.

Mr. Cousens: We have been talking about a number of things in the House but when the budget came out, beautiful document that it is, it all leads into the budget and an expenditure of public funds. In fact, we could have easily had the same flower on the interim supply bill as we have on the budget because what we have got there is the red trillium, and anyone who knows flowers and the trillium in particular realizes that this flower has a very pungent odour. What is true of this interim

supply bill is the fact that it too has a very stinky smell. As we look into the future of this province, I see a beautiful form, but the substance, the scent, leaves an awful lot to be desired.

There are a number of concerns coming forward from different parts of the province, and I would like to spend a few moments looking at the failure of the province to address the needs of the high-growth areas. We could talk about that for a moment. We are considering the fact that in the budget speech alone there was an effort to do something about northern Ontario and eastern Ontario as two geographic areas that need special attention by the government.

I suggest this government has failed to look at the high-growth areas. We realize there are regionally depressed areas that need special care, but at the same time the government needs to look at such areas as Peel, Durham and York, areas that are growing at a phenomenal rate and are therefore requiring an investment by the province to maintain a standard of living that people have come to expect before they move into the area. We are talking about one of the fastest growth areas in Ontario, the regional municipality of York, which has grown by over 52 per cent from 1979 to 1985.

Other municipalities across the province have grown by seven per cent on average, but the growth in York region is now placing phenomenal pressure on all the support services that the people who live there would love to see improved. We are talking about such things as Highway 407, which this government announced very recently, but when we look at the amount of money it is investing in Highway 407, at a mile a year it will be 25 or 30 years before this important highway is finally built. Fortunately, we have at least got the announcement, but we do not have any significant investment into it.

We are talking about the need for regional roads, we are talking about more social services, or health care as provided by York Central Hospital—and Markham Stouffville Hospital was just formally announced today—these services are not keeping pace with the population growth. We are talking about seniors' residences. York Manor is going to be closed down and we hope to build two seniors' residences, one in the north and one in the south of York region. There is no determination by this government as to when these seniors' residences will be built. We are seeing the possibility of Green Acres, another seniors' residence, a type of hospital which serves Alzheimer's disease patients and serves a

number of residents from north Metro, being closed down and not being replaced.

We are talking about home support and expansion of home support services for seniors and the elderly in the region. For these services, instead of increasing government funding, we are seeing a minimal inflationary increase, but no recognition of the significant growth that is going on within our area.

I laud and compliment the government for the support in school spending in our area, but it, too, does not begin to address the total needs of our growing society in York region. We are seeing the need for environmental areas and the need for green belts, for parks, for Uplands Park in Thornhill, and there is no money coming from the province to help our communities retain these services.

What is happening, because the government is not putting in a fair dollar in York region, is that we are starting to see a very violent and unhappy reaction by the people of our communities to the provincial plans for growth. I have the statistics now and they are really a very enlightening set of numbers that show us just how bad the financial scene is for York region.

Let me tell members how bad it is. In real terms, the province of Ontario, from 1981 to 1985, spent \$2,155,653,000—an increase of 13 per cent for the total province in general grants and provincial grants to municipalities across this province.

York region, for the very same term of reference and for the same time, from 1981 to 1985, received \$26,772,851, representing a decrease of three per cent to York region. While the rest of the province had a 13 per cent increase from 1981 to 1985, York region had a three per cent decrease during that period, which means the region of York is receiving 16 per cent less money than the rest of the province's municipalities during a five-year period.

In other words, York region should have received \$5 million more during that five-year period, on a per capita basis. The total amount of money should have been increased by \$5 million rather than having a decrease of three per cent.

We are talking about a community, York region, that is growing. Yet we are not seeing the investment by this government in roads, in social services, in schools and in seniors' services that will make this community satisfied. What is happening is that this community is paying the tax dollars and it is paying for new construction, but we are not keeping pace with those social

services, those hard services that are needed to make this community come together.

Now what is happening is that there is a reaction by the community: Where is the province going to be? We therefore want to stop growth. That is bad. The province will only continue to be a successful province with the financial income from those communities that are going to provide for growth. But the province should invest up front to help support that development and support those communities when they need it, not after the fact.

There is a need now for this province to help catch up on that investment for York region. There is a need for it to come forward and recognize York region as one of those urgent places within the province that needs to have financial assistance. The fact is, on a per capita basis we are suffering a decline in government spending. I have to say it is a major problem to those of us who live in York region. It is now time for this government to face up to the fact that we deserve some special attention.

I am concerned about the failure of this government to look at the total strategy for the future when it comes to the need to spend money in those areas in which it is going to do something. Last year, we saw a number of announcements that were front-page news: "One billion dollars to be spent by the Premier of Ontario and Ontario in support of high technology." The new high-tech fund. It allocated \$1 billion over 10 years, but do the members know how much it spent in 1986-1987? It spent \$2 million of the \$100 million it had said it would spend in that time frame. The government is continuing to evaluate different methods of spending funds. The fact is, it said one thing and spent just a small proportion.

We are seeing a government right now which last year allocated \$30 million to an expanded small business development corporation. In actual cash flows, only \$16 million, just half, was invested.

We are needing the community economic transformation agreement. This is an important way of helping underdeveloped areas of the province. Last year's budget had an allocation of \$5 million. How much was actually spent? Only \$0.5 million. Five million was going to be spent and the government only put \$0.5 million into it. I call this a disgrace.

We have seen this government announce northern development funds. Two years ago the Liberal government announced a \$100-million northern Ontario development fund. To date,

only \$17 million has been spent of \$40 million allocated for the past two years. What is happening to it? Again, the government announces something, but it does not do anything about it.

1750

The northern Ontario heritage fund was allocated \$30 million. This was merely a remainder of some of the unspent money from the northern development fund.

If they are really talking about eastern Ontario specifically, how much of a priority is eastern Ontario when only \$5 million is being set aside to help eastern Ontario?

What we really need to see this government do with the money it is taking in through taxes and the money that is coming in through the great success we are having right now is at least three things.

The first thing we need is to have a trade adjustment fund to ensure a smooth transition for industries that are going to be involved in the freer trade agreements with the United States. We should begin now to try to smooth the way for those companies that are going to be encouraged to have more trade with the US. Let us begin to create some incentives for them to get ready. Let us create some environment for those companies and for those industries to get ready for the new day of opening up markets between our country and the US.

Why do we not as well have a revamped government procurement program to ensure that government purchasers who are contributing to our competitive society are given a fair deal by Ontario? Why do we not have a government procurement program that encourages people to buy and sell in Ontario? Why do we not continue to be Canadians first rather than try to go beyond the borders of our province? This province has a way of setting a standard, but what is it doing? It has no real standard for government procurement.

Why does this government not do something to encourage labour to begin to advance and to retrain and to allow its workers in declining industries to find opportunities that can allow them to get back to work and be re-employed? Why do we not start planning for solutions rather than creating solutions?

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting Thomas Brzustowski, who is vice-president, academic, University of Waterloo. In a speech, he talked about three imperatives that have taken place in society.

The first imperative was one of those things that woke up society, in 1957, with the launching of Sputnik by the Soviets. When that Sputnik was first launched, everybody stopped and looked and said: "Hey, that's significant. We had better get down to work and start revitalizing our own industry and retooling our plants so that we are able to be competitive. Obviously, what has gone on prior to the Second World War will no longer work for us in the future, so let's do something about it."

That was one of the first imperatives of western society; the launching of Sputnik reactivated science and technology and refuelled the whole sense of urgency and importance for industry in this province and in North America to come alive and to get out there and make it happen.

The second imperative he talked about was the oil embargo of 1973, when suddenly we learned that here in North America, we are not able to rely on our resources alone and we have to rely on other resources. It was startling and everybody knew it, because it affected each of us. When we would go to the gas bar or the gas pumps, we had to understand the prices were out of control and there was a shortage of fuel.

We are now into the third imperative. We are in the middle of it. It is not as startling as Sputnik. It is not as dramatic as the oil embargo. We are talking about a world industrial crisis on freer trade, on the Third World markets becoming far more competitive than Canadian markets. We are seeing them grow and we are seeing the North American share dwindle and get smaller.

What we have to do in this province is recognize that one of our major priorities should be to enliven and make our whole industrial area competitive with the rest of the world. There is a great surge taking place in the Pacific Rim countries. They are increasing their international share of the market. There is an incredible inability of western nations to adapt as fully as possible to this new technological area. The result has been a diminishing western influence on international scenes and a decreasing access to foreign markets.

We in Ontario and in Canada have been far more reactive than proactive on the international level. What we need to do in Ontario is to redefine and co-ordinate our economy in anticipation of future developments. Instead of having a budget that is putting a smattering of money here and there and all over the place, there should be an industrial plan that has focus to it and that has a dream to it and will allow our industry to get

ready for another day. But that has not happened in the budget of Ontario.

What we need to do is have that dream and give it some reality in a budget that says: "We are allocating our priorities. We are going to cut taxes and then, with the money we have, we are going to build for the future."

We in this province need to have a vision for the future in the changing nature of the work force. We are seeing our labour force participation rate of women between the ages of 24 and 54 years estimated to be approximately 75 per cent by the year 1990. We are seeing changes in the kind of makeup of the family, where we have single, sole-support parents. We are seeing a new role, a new situation developing for the family, as more and more parents are working—the need for child care. What we have seen from this province is a totally irresponsible response for child care.

What we have seen is the development of a strategy that says we are going to pit government-financed child care against child care that is provided by commercial operators. In fact, commercial operators who presently provide child care could well be in jeopardy by the programs of direct grants that are being made now by this province to those agencies that are not commercially operated. We are going to put the commercially operated people into a position where they are treated very differently, by virtue of replacing the needs test with an income test only applicable in the nonprofit sector, until a revision by the federal government.

Why is there not some consistency to it? Why is there not some investment by this province in both commercially operated and nonprofit? What we have to do is face up and treat everybody alike. The government cannot run everything. The government should not run everything. But the government should establish a context in which both government programs and commercial and private programs are able to prosper. What we are not doing here is recognizing that some 45 per cent of licensed day care provided in this province is provided by commercially operated centres. What we need to do in this government is begin to do more for both sides, allow some of the system to change, do that through better regulations and better inspection. All of that can happen. But the government is trying to get in there and run it all. I am concerned about that.

I am concerned about the fact that this government has no vision when it comes to dealing with the older workers. It is not really

coming together with a program for those who are 55 or older, who have lost their jobs and who are facing the problem of being retrained. There is no good program now to train older workers.

Where is the commitment as well to our disenfranchised and disfranchised youth? One third of Ontario students drop out of high school before finishing grade 12. The drop-out rate in Ontario is four times larger than Japan's.

Where is the commitment to education? In this year's budget we see a net decrease in the general legislative grants to education of \$144 million. We are talking about a government that has said in the past that it wanted to increase its share of government spending. What we are seeing is that they have decreased their share. They have broken the promise they made two years ago. We are witnessing a budget here that sees a decrease in the proportion of money for education that is very significant.

We are seeing a government that is doing very little in skills training. The Futures program, when announced, boasted of assisting 230,000 young people by 1986. By their own admission, this program has only helped 50,000 young people, or 21.7 per cent of the original goal.

We are talking about a government that has put lots of words and lipservice into what it was going to do for universities and colleges. The increase of 11.5 per cent in university operating grants is actually only 7.05 per cent. They say one thing, but when we look at the real dollars—and this includes \$60 million of a special allocation, which was a requirement arising from the 1984 community colleges teachers' strike—we are seeing that educational spending has failed to reach 1984-85 levels. Twenty cents of every dollar was spent on education, colleges and universities and skills training. Today, instead of its being 20 cents, it is down to 19 cents.

Where is the dollar for education? They say one thing, but in relation to the dollars that were spent in 1982 and 1983, when things were tougher, there were more dollars then compared to what is being spent now in supporting education. We are talking about a government that says one thing but does not do it. It does not follow through.

I have a number of other remarks that I want to make about the whole deficit situation. I will reserve that until the next opportunity that I have, inasmuch as it is coming very close to the hour of six.

On motion by Mr. Cousens, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
24	1206	1	14	Mr. Pollock: I have a petition.
26	1332	2	19	signed it and, as of that date, they did not have to count these folks.

APPENDIX

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

117. Mr. Villeneuve: Would the acting Minister of Government Services provide the basis for the decision to re-lease the property at 10 Wellesley Street East? [Tabled April 29, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Conway: The decision to continue leasing space at 10 Wellesley Street East was based on a staff review with the tenant ministry which confirmed that they would continue to require accommodation in the downtown area. It was also concluded that the government would not be constructing, or would have available alternative crown-owned accommodation within the planning horizon of five years.

It was concluded following analysis of market conditions and the rental rates for alternative accommodation coupled with the cost of relocation, that it is more economical to remain in occupancy of this building as opposed to relocating to alternative leasehold improvements, the cost of moving and attendant costs to tenant productivity.

INTERIM ANSWERS

16. Mr. McFadden: Hon. Mr. Riddell—This question was addressed to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology although it pertains to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Additional time is required for this inquiry and an answer will be forthcoming by July 3, 1987.

133. Mr. Sterling: Hon. Mr. Nixon—The detailed information required by this question will take longer than the normal 14 days to prepare. The answer should be available by about June 22, 1987.

134. Mr. Martel: Hon. Mr. Wrye—Additional time is required to respond to this question. A final answer will be available for tabling on or around July 17, 1987.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

FUEL SAFETY

Sessional paper 63, re the closing of Toronto Taxi's propane station.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The propane transfer facility located at 1030 Danforth Avenue in Toronto was ordered to cease and desist operations on May 12, 1987, until such time as certain conditions relating to the location of the tank, attendant servicing and employee instruction have been met.

When these conditions are complied with to the satisfaction of the director of the fuels safety branch, the facility will have fulfilled its legal obligations.

An industry-government committee has been established to review the siting of propane transfer facilities and a report from that committee is expected in the early fall.

HOMEMAKERS' WEEK

Sessional paper 74, re declaring the week of October 18-24, 1987, as Homemakers' Week in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: My ministry endorses the principle of designating a week which recognizes the valuable role of visiting homemakers in helping to meet the health and social needs of the community. My ministry also agrees to the proposed timing of this event; however, I request that it be called Visiting Homemakers' Week.

Furthermore, my ministry would like to offer a one-time-only grant of \$50,000 to the Ontario Association of Visiting Homemaker Services to be used towards the production of public awareness materials and to hire a firm to organize the event.

CONTENTS

Monday, June 15, 1987

Members' statements

Cambridge Highland Games, Mr. Barlow	1349
Northern health services, Mr. Wildman	1349
Services aux personnes âgées, M. Poirier	1349
Fund-raising, Mr. Gillies	1350
Children's Aid Society workers, Mr. R. F. Johnston	1350
Senior Citizens Month, Mr. Callahan	1350
Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre, Mr. McLean	1351

Statements by the ministry

Severance pay and notice provisions, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1351
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Hon. Mr. Grandmaître	1353
International banking centres, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1354
Ontario Human Rights Commission, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1354

Responses

Severance pay and notice provisions, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Rae	1354
Ontario Human Rights Commission, Mr. Rae	1355
Severance pay and notice provisions, Mr. Mackenzie	1355

Oral questions

University enrolment, Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1356
Assistance for the disabled, Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1356
Severance pay and notice provisions, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1357
Guide to finding a job, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Ruprecht	1358
Government contracts, Mr. Gillies, Hon. Mr. Conway	1359
Mining safety, Mr. Martel, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1359
Police conduct, Mr. Shymko, Hon. Mr. Keyes	1360
Waste management, Mrs. Grier, Hon. Mr. Bradley	1360
Boundary negotiations, Mr. Brandt, Hon. Mr. Grandmaître	1361
Fund-raising, Mr. Mackenzie, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1362
Wintario travel grants, Mr. Rowe, Hon. Mr. Eakins	1362
Severance pay and notice provisions, Mr. Hayes, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1362
Trade with United States, Mr. McFadden, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1363
Assistance for people with brain injuries, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1364
Trade expansion fund, Mr. Cousens, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1364
Conservation officers, Mr. Wildman, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1365
Conflict-of-interest guidelines, Mr. Harris, Hon. Mr. Scott	1365
Durham College of Applied Arts and Technology, Mr. Warner, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1366
Lennox generating station, Mr. Andrewes, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1366

Petitions

Noise barrier, Mr. Andrewes, tabled	1367
Dialysis unit, Mr. Pollock, tabled	1367
Market value assessment, Mr. Shymko, tabled	1367

Motions

Committee sittings , Hon. Mr. Nixon, agreed to	1368
Private bill , Hon. Mr. Nixon, agreed to	1368

First reading

Employment Standards Amendment Act , Bill 85, Hon. Mr. Wrye, agreed to	1368
---	------

Third readings/Troisième lecture

Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act , Bill 62, Hon. Mr. Nixon, agreed to	1368
Income Tax Amendment Act , Bill 63, Hon. Mr. Nixon, agreed to	1368
Beef Cattle Marketing Amendment Act , Bill 77, Hon. Mr. Riddell, agreed to	1368
Pay Equity Act , Bill 154, Hon. Mr. Scott, Mr. Breaugh, Mr. Shymko, Ms. Gigantes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Rae, agreed to	1368
Loi de 1987 sur l'équité salariale , loi 154, l'hon. M. Scott, M. Breaugh, M. Shymko, Mme Gigantes, M. Harris, M. Rae, adoptée	1368
Mental Health Amendment Act , Bill 190, Hon. Mr. Elston, Mr. Andrewes, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Mr. Reville, Mr. J. M. Johnson, Mr. Harris, agreed to	1375

Committee of the whole House

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act , Bill 34, Hon. Mr. Scott, Ms. Gigantes, Mr. Sterling, reported	1386
---	------

Government motion

Interim supply , resolution 10, Hon. Mr. Nixon, Mr. Cousens, adjourned	1388
---	------

Other business

Members' expenditures , Mr. Speaker	1349
Fund-raising , Mr. Speaker	1351
Notices of dissatisfaction , Mr. Cousens, Mr. Wildman, Mr. Speaker, Hon. Mr. Kerrio ..	1367
Adjournment	1391
Errata	1392

Appendix**Answers to questions in Orders and Notices**

Government property , question 117, Mr. Villeneuve, Hon. Mr. Conway	1393
Interim answers , questions 16, 133 and 134	1393

Responses to petitions

Fuel safety , sessional paper 63, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1393
Homemakers' Week , sessional paper 74, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1393

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breagh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)
Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education and acting Minister of Government Services (Renfrew North L)
Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC)
Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)
Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)
Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Minister of Financial Institutions (Wilson Heights L)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)
McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)
Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines (London Centre L)
Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)
Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)
Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)
Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)
Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development (York North L)
Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)
Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)





Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Third Session, 33rd Parliament
Tuesday, June 16, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, June 16, 1987

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

SEWAGE TREATMENT

Mr. J. M. Johnson: In the recent Ontario budget, the government promised that deteriorating water and sewer systems throughout the province must be rebuilt before they require even more costly replacement. I very strongly support that program.

Several municipalities in Wellington—Fergus, Harriston, Arthur, Mount Forest and Clifford, to name a few—need government assistance now. These municipalities have the opportunity now to attract industry and new housing. They wish to do so, but growth is being stagnated by this government.

Just to highlight this concern, I would like to refer to the town of Fergus and a letter received last week from the Ministry of the Environment:

"Fergus has 551 committed lots which will use up more than the remaining capacity of the sewage treatment plant; therefore, this ministry will be unable to comment favourably towards any further draft plans of subdivision within the municipality. I am aware that you have retained Triton Engineering Ltd. to undertake preliminary design for a planned expansion and also that your request for funding for this project was turned down by our ministry."

This government refuses to provide financial assistance to small rural municipalities to improve their sewage treatment facilities and then forbids them to accept any residential or commercial growth without sewer improvement. Does this government not care about the financial viability of small-town, rural Ontario? Why does it continue to mislead the citizens of small communities?

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Warner: I thought the members, especially the members of the government, would like to hear some of the comments from the citizens of Ontario regarding car insurance. These are some of the comments from my constituents.

"Since...I have never had an accident, lost points or in any way abused the privilege of having a licence...yet no discount for being over 25, no discount for being female, no discount for a clean driving record...no discount for being a married person...As far as I'm concerned, Mr. Warner, they're nothing short of legalized crooks, and the time is long past due when something should be done to put a stop to it. Sock it to them royally."

The next one: "My complaint about insurance is too disgusting to talk about, so therefore I will not comment on it. If your party has the power to change this system for the better, there are eight votes in this household you will get."

This is a new one: "I cannot give you an example, but I have yet to meet a poor insurance agent."

"I am a 22-year-old female. I got my driver's licence in September 1986, purchased a 1987 Ford Mustang in April, paying \$1,600 per year for insurance. I called about 50 companies and was given estimates ranging from \$2,400 to \$3,500. I am insured with a company...and pay 'only' \$1,600."

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Warner: There are many more. The other members might wish to give me some of their time.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Ms. Caplan: The construction of the Sheppard subway line is a topic of particular interest to myself and my constituents. We were disappointed, of course, when the Sheppard line did not have funding announced in the budget. Since then, I have sought and received assurance from the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) that the construction of Highway 407 does not preclude the construction of the needed Sheppard line.

The announcement on Friday by Metro Chairman Dennis Flynn has given the residents of North York renewed hope and encouragement. The provincial government has approved a grant of \$2.75 million, which will be used for engineering and design work crucial to the transit planning and future construction. This new

funding, while not a guarantee, demonstrates to us that this government recognizes the importance of this line to all those people travelling in North York. The grant will allow ongoing engineering and land use studies to continue while the year-long provincial study of greater Metropolitan Toronto transportation needs is carried out.

North York council has worked diligently to organize its citizens to show support. With this announcement—Mr. Speaker, I know you will find this hard to believe—even Mel Lastman is happy.

As a token of appreciation, I would like today to present to the Minister of Transportation and Communications a North York “I need it now!” Sheppard subway T-shirt.

We look forward to the day when the ground-breaking will occur. We believe this is one step closer.

MARKET VALUE ASSESSMENT

Mr. McFadden: Yesterday the council of the city of Toronto rejected market value reassessment.

As this House knows, I have fought against the imposition of market value assessment in Toronto since the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Nixon) released, almost two years ago, the Goyette report on property taxes, which recommended that the provincial government should impose market value assessment if Toronto failed to voluntarily adopt it.

The Minister of Revenue has indicated over the months his continuing support for the implementation of market value assessment in Metropolitan Toronto. The release by the minister last month of the impact study of market value assessment on property taxes based on 1984 values confirmed our worst fears. Older, centrally located neighbourhoods in Toronto would be devastated by market value assessment. Many seniors and young families would be forced to sell their homes as their property taxes would rise by 25 per cent, 50 per cent, 100 per cent or more. Stable neighbourhoods would be devastated.

There are inequities in the current system of property taxes, but it is insane to try to deal with these problems by imposing a property tax system which would make home owners hostages to market trends and land speculation. Ontario needs property tax reform. It does not need the havoc brought about by market value assessment.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Swart: I would also like to read letters from constituents criticizing the insurance companies and the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Kwinter), but I do not like to be discriminatory and if I read all the letters I had I would have to have the floor until the end of the session. Instead of doing that, I want to say a few words about gasoline prices.

I want to say that the Liberal government is scoring more and more failures in protecting the consumers of this province, but one classic has to be the inaction on gasoline prices. Not only has it done nothing to equalize them between northern Ontario and the south, but it has not raised a finger or a syllable against the recent province-wide hikes. We have been badgering the minister since he has been in office to intervene and get some legislation.

Two months ago the government of Nova Scotia rolled back retail prices by two and a half cents per litre. It was estimated that rollback would save consumers there \$62 million annually. The same rollback in Ontario would save consumers \$1 billion annually. Quebec, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Newfoundland are now moving towards gasoline price limits, but not the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter), our minister of corporate support in this province. He simply even refuses to consider putting in any kind of controls.

I want to tell the minister what to do. Instead of putting in a useless review board for insurance which is really going to increase insurance rates in this province, why does he not use one to reduce gasoline prices and do something real for consumers?

SAFETY STANDARDS

Mr. Henderson: On Sunday night, three-year-old John Aucoin fell 14 storeys from a Metro apartment balcony and is at this moment fighting for his life in the Hospital for Sick Children. John crawled up on to a table, then to a four-foot-high concrete ledge and then lost his balance. He clung to a railing screaming for his mommy for several moments before falling 14 storeys.

As a public health physician, parent and legislator, I share in the anguish of this tragedy and join in prayers for little John's recovery. What about prevention of these occurrences? Every few months we hear of such tragedies. They will recur and babies and children will die. What about stiffer safety measures for apartments and apartment balconies where children

live? Should these balconies not be enclosed? Should at least railings not be much higher? Should nonremovable window screens be built right on to windows? Should inspections be initiated to prevent the arrangement of furniture on balconies for toddlers to climb up upon?

John will likely survive. Others will not. As we join in prayers for John's recovery, let us take steps to prevent these tragedies. Public health and common sense demand it.

HALTON CENTENNIAL MANOR

Mr. Jackson: My comments have to do with the fact that the Halton regional council, at its meeting of June 3, passed a motion submitting the plan for redevelopment of Halton Centennial Manor to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) for his approval. With 47 per cent of the region's senior population living in Burlington, we question the government's ability to plan for the future needs of the frail elderly for the community of Burlington as well as the region of Halton.

STANLEY PAYNE

Hon. Mr. Curling: I just wondered if I could have the appreciation of receiving unanimous consent of the House to read a statement of condolence to the family of a prominent public servant.

I would like to take a moment to say a few words about Stanley Payne, who died on Saturday, June 13, after a long illness. Mr. Payne became involved with the province in 1980 when he was appointed to the board of the Ontario Mortgage Corp. In 1984 he was appointed chairman of the board of the Ontario Land Corp. and the Ontario Mortgage Corp. in the Ministry of Housing. He served in that capacity until the transfer of real estate responsibilities to the Ministry of Government Services earlier this year.

Stanley Payne was a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario and a partner in Thorne Riddell in Ottawa. His keen financial sense was not only recognized by his professional colleagues, but also by the members of the board he served so well. Everyone who had the opportunity to work with him valued his advice highly.

Ministry staff and I will remember him as one who had a strong grasp of the issues affecting the province's real estate and mortgages portfolio and as one who provided strong and valued leadership throughout in his service to the people of Ontario. Those of us who had the honour to

work with Mr. Payne will sorely miss his wisdom, his kindness, his humour and his strong dedication to the principles of fairness and justice. In this time of sadness, our condolences go out to his wife, Gail, and to his children, Alison, Alexander, Leslie and Bruce.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Furthering this government's very real commitment to the farming industry of Ontario, I am pleased to report today that the Ontario government will assist grain producers with \$12.7 million in interim payments for grain crops. These payments for grain are being made through the 1986-87 stabilization program of the Farm Income Stabilization Commission. This represents a substantial increase over the \$7.8-million interim payment for the 1985 crop.

This stabilization program offers producers an opportunity to take out some income protection against low prices. Grain producers across the province continue to face depressed prices at the present time. A key reason for those depressed prices is the grain subsidy war between the United States and the European Community.

We are making these interim payments before the end of the year to help ease the financial pressures growers are facing because of the depressed commodity prices.

The interim payments are being made on a record number of crops this year; namely, corn, soybeans, barley, winter wheat, oats and canola.

The payment will be based on the number of metric tons a producer registered for 1986. This method will allow the payment to be made quickly, and cheques will begin to flow to farmers by the end of June.

I am also pleased to report that producers growing several commodities will receive one payment cheque this year rather than separate cheques for each commodity.

Along with the recently announced initiatives the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) outlined in the budget, I believe it is clear that this government is determined to assist our grain producers through this difficult time of depressed world grain prices and to ensure that assistance is provided quickly.

RESPONSES

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mr. Stevenson: The interim payment, of course, comes about because it is well known that some stabilization payments will be required

again this year due to the continuing low prices being received by farmers for their grain commodities. So it is no surprise that there will be payments; the government might be expected to come forward with interim payments.

I think we should look, however, at the situation here with the funding brought forward by this government. The only really significant new program that has come forward on the income side to farmers has been OFFIRR Plus, the new Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program, which was introduced in the first few weeks this government was in power.

Look at what has gone on in other governments around the world since the OFFIRR Plus program came in: the United States Food Security Act came on the scene; then came the expansion of subsidies in the world agricultural marketplace, particularly on grains, to basically dump products from other countries on to the world market. Our farmers have suffered very significantly from that.

1350

The response from the federal government has been a \$1-billion payment to the farmers of Canada. That single payment made for last year's crop is over double the total budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food here in this province. That was their one response to assist the farmers of Canada and the farmers of Ontario: more than double the total budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food here in Ontario.

There has been no response whatsoever from this government on the new challenges that have faced the agriculturalists of this province since it took power. To stand up here today to announce an interim payment on an existing program that has been in place for many, many years, a program whose calculations are based on the values of the crops in the marketplace, and therefore the payments from this program are decreasing every year as the market value decreases—here we have an announcement that is just basically saying: “We are sending you out a few cheques a little bit earlier than you would have expected them. They are going to be smaller than you got last year, but they will help a little bit.”

What we are really looking for in this situation is a response from this government to get in and assist the federal government in coming up with some new money to address the new problems that have arisen since this government took power. Those have not come forward. They are not in the announcement today and certainly, if

history continues to repeat itself, it does not look as though they are going to be forthcoming.

We have heard our current Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) say many, many times in the past what a shame it was that the agricultural budget was less than the tax the government gets from tobacco alone, and even with what increases there have been from this government in agricultural funding the agricultural budget still is well below the income the government gets from the tobacco tax. So they have not really come close to correcting what they deemed was a major problem when they were on the opposition side of the House.

I think the real point of an announcement that should be made today is that the Ontario government still refuses to get involved in any special payments with the federal government to address the new problems that have come along since it took office. They have not been addressed in the past; they have not yet. Ontario farmers need help on the income side of their books, and until they get it they are going to be suffering an unfair disadvantage compared to other farmers in the world.

Mr. Hayes: I do not want to shock the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) and let his head swell any larger than it is, but I welcome this announcement today. I think it is something that is needed very quickly; there is no question that the farmers need that money for stabilization as soon as possible so they can continue to try to keep their farm operations viable.

There is one thing I would like to mention to the minister when he talks about the key reason for depressed prices dealing with the grain subsidy war between the United States and European Community. I think there is another problem here and that is the fact that some of these depressed prices are as a result of the federal government and also this provincial government with their policies of cheap foods in this province and this country. I think those particular issues have to be dealt with.

I hope this government can see some day that the total answer to this is not subsidies but addressing the real problem in agriculture today: the low prices the farmers are receiving. We have to take the initiative here in Ontario to address that particular issue if we want to preserve the family farm in Ontario. In the meantime, I would ask the minister to do whatever he can to expedite these grain stabilization payments to the farmers in Ontario.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Grossman: My first question today is for the Premier, with regard to interpretation of the Meech Lake accord, which he signed.

On the first page of the accord, it says the government of Canada will guarantee Quebec a number of immigrants which is proportionate to its share of the population, which is 25 per cent; it goes on to say, "with the right to exceed that figure by five per cent for demographic reasons."

My question to the Premier is this. We have checked specifically with his counterparts to ascertain their understanding of that extra five per cent. I would like to know from the Premier whether that five per cent is in addition to the 25 per cent, meaning 30 per cent of all the immigration, or whether the five per cent is five per cent on their 25 per cent base. That is a significant difference amounting to thousands of immigrants, and we should like to know specifically whether it is 30 per cent or five per cent on 25.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me try to go back and explain to the honourable member this discussion we have had on several other occasions in this House. The honourable member will be aware by now, having studied the matter, that some of the assertions he has made in this House were factually incorrect. He gave the impression it would interfere with family reunification, which is not part of the targets. I am sure my honourable friend now knows that. It applies only to independent immigrants.

It is a fact that Quebec has been substantially below its targets over the last period of years. Presumably they will come up to that target and anything else will be an add-on to the overall targets, and no one's immigration is being detracted from.

Mr. Grossman: Specifically, the information the Premier has given, regardless of how many times he says others are factually inaccurate, the fact is that he has just interpreted the agreement totally inconsistently with every other observer and participant to the Meech Lake accord across the country. It is time he stopped accusing everyone of being factually inaccurate when in point of fact we have consistently been the only ones who have been factually accurate in interpreting that accord on the immigration issue in this House.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Grossman: The Premier's record on being factually accurate, I might also tell him, stands to be judged by a lot more people than me.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Grossman: To get back to the question I asked, which the Premier has not answered, the question is a simple one. The accord guarantees Quebec, in those words, its proportion of the population in immigration, which is 25 per cent, plus five per cent. If that means 30 per cent, that means they get an additional 5,750 immigrants. If it means five per cent on their share, it means an additional 1,438. The difference is very significant. Can the Premier tell me which it is? Is it 30 per cent or is it five per cent on their 25?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Plus or minus five per cent of their share. But let me tell the honourable member we are dealing with targets now. As he knows, they have been way below targets for some substantial number of years. I do not see that the question my honourable friend raises causes any concern at all. The targets are moving and the federal government is committed to substantially increasing those targets over the next five years. What in fact we will probably see is increased immigration to every province.

In addition to that, my honourable friend will be aware that Ontario gets 45 to 50 per cent of the immigrants, because most people want to settle here.

1400

Mr. Grossman: Let us try to get the Premier to be specific in his understanding of this section. He is now using the word "target." The Premier worked through two long meetings. He alleges in this House that he personally worked long and hard on drafting this document. The document does not say "target." The document says the government of Canada will reach "an agreement with the government of Quebec that would ... guarantee that Quebec will receive" its share of 25 per cent of all immigration.

So that we can move this debate forward both here and in Quebec, can the Premier tell us today that "guarantee" is the wrong word and that what he meant in signing the agreement was "target"? If he did, that would create some great degree of furore in Quebec. Does this guarantee Quebec 25 per cent or is this just a target? If it is the latter, will he say so and will he insist that word be deleted from the agreement?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think my honourable friend is misinterpreting that. It means exactly what it says it means. As he knows, there have been targets for a long period of time but all the provinces have fallen below those targets over the last little while. Quebec specifically can obviously come up to its 25 per cent plus or

minus five per cent, as agreed to along the traditions and provisions contained in the Cullen-Couture agreement.

I think my honourable friend is trying to make an issue out of something that no one else is registering the same concerns about, which is not new for my honourable friend. I never cease to be amazed at my honourable friend, who went to Ottawa last week and said, "We stand as members of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada in great awe of the Prime Minister's achievement at Meech Lake and the Langevin Block." He says different things in Toronto. I do not know what he is going to say in Thunder Bay next week. Let me say that my honourable friend cannot have it all ways. I did not hear him discussing this in that speech in Ottawa last night.

Mr. Speaker: New question, and for which minister?

Mr. Grossman: The difference between the Premier and the Prime Minister is that he understands what he signed. We may disagree with what he signed but he knows what he did.

Mr. Speaker: Question. To which minister?

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

Mr. Grossman: My second question is to the Premier as well. As discussed yesterday, on June 10 of this year the cost of obtaining a one-bedroom apartment on the market was \$670 a month in Toronto. Thanks to the steps taken by his government, disabled pensioners will be getting \$655 a month, not \$755 as the federal government intended. Can he explain how he expects disabled persons living on \$655 a month to rent a one-bedroom apartment in Metropolitan Toronto when the cost of doing so is \$670 a month?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not know where the honourable member gets his figures. Perhaps he took an average out of the Toronto Star, as he suggested yesterday. It is interesting to note that the last figure from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. on that very same subject is that the average rental in the city of Toronto is \$460, so he is \$200 off one way or the other. The operating premise of my honourable friend's question is incorrect.

Mr. Grossman: The \$460 happens to be the average rent, according to CMHC, being paid by those people who are already fortunate enough to have one-bedroom apartments in Metropolitan Toronto. But as to those who have looked at the market, the Premier will find that the cost of

acquiring one as it comes on the market is \$670 a month.

I am not even going to quibble over the difference in amounts. I will rephrase my question to the Premier. The disabled people in this province are allowed to receive only \$655 a month, thanks to his policies. Under his analysis, the cost of having a one-bedroom apartment in Metropolitan Toronto is \$480 a month, or say \$460 or whatever. How does the Premier expect the disabled people in this province to survive when they have to pay for a one-bedroom apartment at least \$480 a month?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I appreciate my honourable friend now adjusting his second question in accordance with the facts. At least it means an admission that he was wrong with his original question.

I should tell my honourable friend that we have, I believe, 12,000 units in Ontario Housing. We have a number of rent-geared-to-income apartments. There was a major increase in the last budget with respect to housing for the disabled. My honourable friend will be aware of a massive number of programs brought in by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) as well as by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) to assist people with special needs.

I am not pretending for a minute that it is adequate, and I am not pretending for a minute that we could not do more, but I think the member has seen enormous activity from this government to try to bring real independence of living for the disabled community.

Mr. Grossman: Let us just clarify the record, because I know how careful the Premier alleges he always is about the record. I did not correct my figures. I pointed out to him that our figure in terms of the apartments that were available is \$670 a month. If the Premier wants to begin being factually accurate in this area and others, he will acknowledge, like a gentleman, the fact we presented out of the Star's available apartments list is \$670 a month. The CMHC list of what people who have apartments in this province are paying is also factually accurate at \$480 a month. But in order to give him an opportunity to explain why he has decided to peg the disabled people on pensions at \$655 a month—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Grossman: —and where he expects them to live when the average rent is \$480 a month, minimum, for a one-bedroom apartment, I posed that question, and he continues to duck it months after he, his minister and his Treasurer (Mr.

Nixon) have stolen \$100 out of the pockets of the disabled pensioners of this province.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: My question to the Premier is this—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Premier.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I can restate that my honourable friend opposite is interested in creating two classes of the disabled. He knows my honourable colleague has made a major new contribution to the disability pensions. He has helped 80,000 people, rather than the 12,000 or so the member would like to help. There has been an increase of \$72 per person. One can argue again that it could be more, but I believe that with the major new infusions into the budget for the disabled, we have helped many, many people who were not helped previously, particularly by his government.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Mr. Rae: I guess it is clear that the Liberal Party has one policy with respect to the disabled in terms of one class of disabled, and that is to make sure all of them are poor.

My question to the Premier is with respect to another area of government policy. I wonder if the Premier can tell us precisely what is the Liberal government's policy with respect to affirmative action in the public sector.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As the honourable member will be aware, we have undertaken a major survey called the "I count" survey of the public service. My honourable friend, I am sure, is aware of that, and I am sure he is aware we will have an announcement in the very near future. My honourable friend has an uncanny ability to know when we are going to make an announcement and to stand up and ask a question about it two days ahead of time and then take credit for it. My honourable friend will be hearing very shortly from the government on this matter.

Mr. Rae: The Premier seems uncannily touchy—and he obviously now has some document that has been put in front of him by the Treasurer. I would like to ask whether the Premier can explain—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Where did you get your document?

Mr. Rae: The Minister of Energy is an expert on natural gas and on nothing else.

What I would like to ask the Premier is this: I have here copies of all the Job Marts in the last year, which I will send over to the Premier in a moment. The pictures of senior executive ap-

pointments are contained, as well as short biographies.

The Premier will find there is an absolutely remarkable lack of the faces of Ontario that are in any sense representative of the modern province. I wonder if the Premier can explain that, and I wonder if he can explain why his government has, up to this time, consistently refused to implement the affirmative action and employment equity programs it said it would introduce when it formed the government and signed the accord with the New Democratic Party.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I know my honourable friend, in the interests of fairness, would want to know all the facts pertaining to the question he has asked. I want to tell my honourable friend, and the honourable Treasurer just pointed this out to me, that during 1986-87 the number of women appointed to executive positions has increased by 196 per cent over 1985-86. Again, I am not arguing it is perfect, but we have made major progress in that area and we will continue to do so.

1410

I said to my honourable friend that the first thing we set about to do was to get a detailed analysis of the true representative makeup of our public service through the "I count" study, to find out where the strengths and weaknesses are. In a very short time, we will share that study with the House, with all its flaws, as well as our plans to rectify those situations.

Mr. Rae: Since the Premier is using percentages, when he looks at the absolute numbers they cannot be nearly as good. He knows that and so does the Treasurer. He is a master with figures in terms of giving the figures to the Premier.

Could the Premier look at two questions? First of all, even in his own answer he refers specifically only to women, where the numbers are still around a quarter of the appointments in the public sector, which is well below what any sense of representativeness would provide. He has not dealt with the question of visible minorities and he has not touched on the question of the disabled in terms of their access to positions of power and authority in the public service.

Can the Premier explain why the government has consistently refused to introduce an affirmative action program, not only with respect to women but also with respect to visible minorities and the handicapped? Why is it that he has consistently rejected the approach suggested by my friend the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), as chairman of the standing committee

on the Legislative Assembly, and has instead imposed a system of political patronage worthy of the 42 years that preceded his coming to office in 1985?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member accuses the Treasurer of being a master with figures. He is correct in that assertion. He is indeed very competent in that regard. I think my honourable friend will know that the deficiency of members of his own party is that they do not understand the figures and are not prepared to respond to the facts as they are presented in this House.

I go back to my honourable friend and I say to him that we have launched a detailed statistical analysis of the public service. That has taken some time to do. I think it has been sensibly done, and we have a great deal more information with which to deal than we had in the past.

I should tell my honourable friend that the preliminary conclusion in that regard is that the public service does, in broad numbers, represent the population as a whole in Ontario. Of course, the problem is that there tends to be clustering at the lower levels. That is why we are dealing with these situations. We have a detailed analysis and I have said we will have a statement for my honourable friend in the very near future.

With respect to the order-in-council appointments, I invite my honourable friend to make a completely detailed analysis of those order-in-council appointments, as many of his colleagues have done in the past. He will look at what has happened with respect to those appointments. I can tell him we have made enormous progress in bringing people from all walks of life into sharing all aspects of the institution. Compared to the past, it is an unbelievable change, because it truly reflects the kind of Ontario we believe in on this side of the House.

Mr. Rae: As a teacher of mine once said, there is a big difference between saying something and proving something. The only problem with what the Premier has said is that it is not in conformity with any sense of the facts out there. It has taken him a year to discover what everybody in this province knows; that is, our senior levels of the public service are not representative of the general population.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Rae: My question is to the Minister of Housing. I would like to welcome him back to the House and ask him a question about housing supply. I never got an answer to this question before he went away for a time. I do not know

whether it was the question that had that effect on him or whether it was something else.

Can the minister tell us why the government of Ontario's Renterprise program is subsidizing the construction of condominiums and not the construction of affordable rental accommodation? Why are we falling thousands of units short of the 24,000 units a year which the minister himself said was the target for Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I also missed the honourable leader of the third party. I missed his questions. I thought in the time of my absence he would have gotten something right.

The last time I told the member we do not subsidize condominiums. The Renterprise program is a program that is contributing to the rental supplies we need. There is no way we supply funds for condominium conversions there. Should those builders want to convert the units to condominiums, all the money forwarded to those developers must be returned to the government. I would like to make it very plain that we do not supply money for condominiums at all. I hope the member gets that right. This is the second time I have said it in the House.

In answer to the second question, about 23,000 units have been allocated to date, which is far more than was done when the previous government was in power.

Mr. Rae: I hope the minister is listening and I hope everybody was listening when the minister said he was staking his reputation on the fact that the government of Ontario does not subsidize the construction of condominium housing.

I can tell the minister that is precisely what has happened with respect to buildings that have been built under the Renterprise program. If he is not aware of that fact, I am sorry for him. I am sorry he said his reputation depends on that being true because the fact is that condominium conversion and the end result of having condominiums is a direct result of the Renterprise program.

By way of supplementary, I would like to ask the minister a specific question with respect to apartment hotels. The minister will be aware of an apartment hotel at 1101 Bay Street which belongs to his friend, close colleague and adviser Mr. Grenier, the person who was so instrumental in drafting Bill 11 and also the rent review legislation.

I wonder whether the minister is aware of the number of units that are now being converted from apartments to condominiums on an individual basis so that rents are going up from some \$650 per month to over \$100 per day. Is he aware

of the transformation of literally dozens of units in that one building from being affordable apartments to being unaffordable hotel suites?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: What does the minister intend to do to stop it? Can he in fact stop it under Bill 11?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Curling: Those matters came to my attention a couple of days ago, and the ministry is investigating to see if there are any conversions in that respect. We are looking into the matter, and if there is an illegal process in that the necessary steps will be taken.

Mr. Reville: Given that the minister is failing on supply and failing on protection of our existing stock, will he confirm that under the third prong of the housing policy, the protection of tenants, he is failing there too?

I have a tenant who has advised us that her rent increase that has been applied for will be 100 per cent: from \$805 a month to \$1,610 a month. That would be an increase of \$805 a month. Will the minister confirm that his Bill 51, which was supposed to protect tenants, will in fact allow an increase of this type; and will he pay particular attention in his answer to subsection 80(2)?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I cannot understand why the honourable member, who applauded Bill 51 so much and voted for it, would regard it as a failure. I cannot understand either how he can regard as a failure the assured housing policies that we put in place 18 months ago, which have committed us so far to over 23,000 social housing units.

Nor can I understand how he can regard it as a failure when we have brought all units under rent review and there is a guideline that no rent can be increased unless it comes before the process of rent review. If the individual whom the member states in the House today has an increase of over 100 per cent, or \$800—and I stand to be corrected—if that is the case, it has to come before the rent review process first for any increase to be justified. I cannot see as a failure having a process in place to protect those tenants.

1420

Mr. Reville: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Would the minister care to withdraw the slander that I somehow supported the noxious Bill 51?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think it is up to all members to state the facts. Order. New question.

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Pope: I have a question for the Premier. Could the Premier explain what we really find inexplicable: that is, his continuing coverup of his responsibility and his mishandling of IDEA Corp. funds, to the tune of \$8 million.

Can he explain why he has not yet adhered to the wishes of the standing committee on public accounts and filed the Biddell report; the IDEA Corp. financial statement for the year ended March 31, 1986; the Ministry of Government Services internal audit; the Ontario Provincial Police investigation reports? Why does he continue in this fashion to refuse to provide information to the public on his abuse and his waste of the public's money?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My understanding is that there was a request for Mr. Biddell's report and that it has not yet been completed, but Mr. Biddell has offered the committee to invite him to appear before it to ask him any questions it would like. I think that offer is open and I hope the member will take advantage of it.

Mr. Pope: The committee moved, in its motion almost two weeks ago now, that if the information was not supplied by June 15 a Speaker's warrant should issue. I hope that today a Speaker's warrant will issue for these documents, because the government has not provided a single one of them.

The Biddell report has been finished and has been quoted as being dated February 1987. The OPP investigation has already provided notes to the chief law officer of the crown. Now we want to know why the Premier and his government are continuing to cover up the waste of \$8 million, with documents that now exist and that he refuses to produce for the Legislature. Why does he continue to cover up?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not think the member is correct in that assertion. As I said, I understand a letter has gone forth to the committee offering up all the information, as is appropriate. There is some suggestion that he would like to summon the OPP; I gather they have some view that that is interfering with an investigation. But we have absolutely no problem with making all this information public.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: We have had the Premier today give statements that indicate somebody else is making statements that are not true. We have had the Premier again do that. We had the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) give a statement to this Legislature which everybody knows is factually incorrect.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you that unless he is prepared to stand in his place and correct the record, then he is going to stand there and tell a blatant lie to this House. It is one or the other.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I was waiting for the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) to finish his question. Under standing order 19, the rules of the debate, Mr. Speaker, you are obliged to call a member to order when he imputes false or unavowed motives to another member or makes allegations against another member. The Minister of Housing has said, falsely, that we supported Bill 51. You are obliged by the standing orders to call the minister to order and ask him to withdraw the false statement he made and apologize to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: One of the most regrettable aspects about the debate in this forum from time to time is when honourable members, in the heat of a moment, will consider a statement of the type that the Minister of Housing made, which is an unpremeditated error—

Mr. O'Connor: Let him say so.

Mr. McClellan: Let him stand up and apologize.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: All right—and say that it is an unmitigated lie. That, of course, should not be permitted in this House. The statement was corrected by the honourable member opposite, and there is nothing the matter with that.

I would say further that when an honourable member gets up and corrects another member on factual matters, it can either be a debate or it is accepted. I would say that under these circumstances there is no problem, but when individual members construe that as a lie, then they downgrade this House in a way which is unacceptable and unnecessary.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Minister of Housing on the same point.

Hon. Mr. Curling: When I made the statement, my comment was that there are many parts of Bill 51 that the honourable member supports in principle. If I gave the impression that he supports the bill in its entirety, I withdraw that. It was not intended to defame the member in any way. I am just completely shocked at the manner in which they regard this, that I am lying to them in that respect.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Bellwoods suggested on that point of order that it is up to the Speaker to decide. That was the point of order, that the Speaker was to decide whether the content was correct or not.

Mr. McClellan: It is a matter of public record.

Mr. Speaker: Order. In the past, it has been my opinion that the Speaker is not the authority to judge the content of an answer according to the facts. That is up to the members of the House.

Mr. Pope: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), the government House leader, indicated that it was perfectly in order for a member who had a disagreement with a statement made by another member to rise and correct the record. Mr. Speaker, you ruled me out of order when I started that process.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It has been the tradition and the custom that members may get up and correct the record as far as what they have placed on the record is concerned. I have said that many times, and I hope the members will understand.

We will continue with question period.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is to the Premier. We passed Bill 7 in this House so that our laws in Ontario supposedly would conform to the Charter of Rights, which was proclaimed several years ago. Could the Premier explain to me why it is that the one section of that act which has not been proclaimed is the section about reasonable accommodation for the disabled? Even though his interministerial committee approved regulations in December 1986, some ministers seem to be holding up those regulations from going through. Could he tell us why that has occurred, and which ministers are holding them up?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not aware of the allegation the honourable member is making, but I will certainly look into the matter and share the information with him as quickly as I can.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: While the Premier is looking into it, he might be aware that almost 18 months ago now the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), in response to this problem being raised about the cost of reasonable accommodation, indicated that when the act was proclaimed he would institute an undue hardship fund which would top up the cost of accommodation to employers, special service providers and land-

lords. We have heard nothing at all about that supposed undue hardship fund either. Why is that?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is my understanding there were some major initiatives in the budget, even in the budget of more than a year ago. I am not familiar with the exact thing the member is referring to or if he is quoting the Attorney General, but I will look at all aspects of it and share that information with him.

1430

BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Brandt: Yesterday in this House, I raised a question with the Minister of Municipal Affairs with respect to a quote that was attributed to the Liberal candidate in the Sarnia riding. The minister indicated that quote was inaccurate. We on this side of the House are having increasing difficulty determining what is accurate from that side of the House and what is an appropriate response to questions we are raising. Regarding the response he gave me yesterday with respect to the matter pertaining to the boundary negotiations in the Sarnia area, will the minister indicate whether he made that statement or did not make that statement?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I do not think a Liberal candidate should become a speaker for the government. It is only when a person is elected that he can speak for the government. I will repeat my answer of yesterday. I still claim that the township, the county and the city of Sarnia can find a solution to their problem.

Mr. Brandt: For the record, I want to read a quote from this morning's London Free Press: "Informed that Grandmaitre had denied saying it, Link-Melon made a spontaneous uncomplimentary remark." I leave it open for the minister's interpretation what that could possibly have meant, although at the earliest opportunity I will ask her what that uncomplimentary remark was.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Brandt: "I cannot believe he denied that," she said. His assistant and the man who takes pictures for the Premier were right there." Will the minister tell us whether Joan Link-Melon was accurate or whether the Minister of Municipal Affairs is telling this House what happened on that particular occasion?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I can assure the member and this House that I have never taken a picture with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and that candidate.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: We are having increasing difficulty with the Premier, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) and other members of the cabinet on statements to this Legislature. British tradition indicates that when a member lies to the House, he should resign. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether this is not another example of that taking place in this Legislature in Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

CHILD CARE

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister has stated his intention to provide operating support grants to existing day care centres that operate on a profit basis. He has not yet defined what "existing" means and the existing profit centres are expanding weekly. I wonder if in the meantime he can tell us if a grant will be given to the existing licensed for-profit operator only or will it be attached to the for-profit centre.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The intent of direct grants is that they go to the centre. That is the whole purpose of them, so that they can be used to increase the wages of centre employees and keep down the fees parents would otherwise have to pay in order to increase those wages. The member is making a distinction that I am not sure I am appreciating, but they are directed towards the centre.

Ms. Gigantes: I am trying to find out just how far the minister is prepared to go in replicating the nursing home chain pattern in the child care field. For example, in nursing homes in Ottawa-Carleton, there are two firms that now control over 80 per cent of the spaces. I would like to ask the minister, if one operator of a for-profit day care centre finds it profitable to buy up other existing profit-run centres, will that operator continue to receive public moneys for operating costs at the centres he has purchased?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: If the centre exists on the day on which the grants are given, the dollars that go to that centre would continue to go; but I remind the honourable member that this ministry has the authority, and is the only organization that has the authority, to issue that licence. The licence is not for sale. The centre may be, but the licence is not for sale.

Mr. Speaker: The acting Minister of Government Services (Mr. Conway) has a response to a question previously asked by the member for

Brantford (Mr. Gillies). I do not see the member for Brantford here. Is it okay? No?

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Harris: The Premier knows that the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) is still in violation of the Premier's own conflict-of-interest guidelines. The member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) is still in violation because his disclosures and holdings have still not been filed with the Clerk of the House for public scrutiny. The Premier refuses to either enforce his own guidelines or remove the parliamentary assistant until he can comply.

I would like to ask the Premier today, in the light of the fact he has the audacity to suggest we should be looking at new conflict-of-interest guidelines, can he at least explain why these disclosures have not been filed?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The reason, as we have discussed before, is that I understand he is tying up some of the legal details and we will see it shortly.

Mr. Harris: Does the Premier not realize that he is making a mockery of his own guidelines and his own integrity in suggesting that these guidelines mean something? A fair question might be, do his guidelines mean anything at all? Why do we have them? One and a half years after these affairs were brought to the Premier's attention and five months after the most recent appointment, surely the Premier has no alternative than to ask his parliamentary assistant to step down until his affairs can be brought into compliance, if that is possible.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the honourable member has read the guidelines carefully and recognizes that there are some interpretations that can be drawn in different ways with respect to the dates and the times applying thereto. That is one of the reasons we need new conflict-of-interest legislation: to make it absolutely, perfectly clear for everyone. I say to my honourable friend that it is being tied up and will be cleaned up very shortly.

1440

MARKET VALUE ASSESSMENT

Mr. McClellan: I have a question for the Treasurer on the subject of property tax and property tax reform. The Treasurer will know that yesterday city council of Toronto voted unanimously to reject, if I may say, the Treasurer's secondhand market value assessment plan that many of them had previously support-

ed. As well, the city council passed a unanimous resolution asking the Treasurer to reaffirm his commitment not to impose this market value assessment system on the city of Toronto over its objections. Can the Treasurer reconfirm his commitment not to impose this scheme against the unanimous wishes of the city of Toronto's council?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The request for the impact study came from the reassessment task force established by Metropolitan Toronto council with representatives of all the cities. The first thing we did upon coming into office was to make public the impact study, which was sitting in the shelves of the Ministry of Revenue and had not been made public. Then, at the request of the task force and the metropolitan council, we updated that to 1984 levels. That information, as soon as it was ready—ahead of schedule, I would tell the member—was presented to the metropolitan council. They have made that public.

I am going to wait until the task force has heard from all the cities, including the city of Toronto, and make some resolution in that regard before I respond in the House. I feel it is essential that they, as representatives of the various cities with varying impacts—admittedly, by far the most serious impact in the city of Toronto—all have an opportunity to look at what the task force can put to the various components of metropolitan council on the basis of capping assessment changes and phasing them in, before I respond to whatever the municipalities give me as an indication of their requirement.

Mr. McClellan: Given that the Treasurer must be aware that between May 1985 and May 1987 the market value of a house in Metropolitan Toronto—not just the city of Toronto, but Metropolitan Toronto—has increased from an average price of \$109,624 to \$208,187, an increase of 91.2 per cent in two years, surely the Treasurer will realize it is impossible to base a property tax system on that kind of housing market. It is a roulette wheel, a crap game, that will drive many thousands of people out of their homes.

Will the Treasurer simply reaffirm his commitment not to allow this to be imposed unilaterally; and second, begin to remove the education component and the cost of human services from the property tax instead of threatening schemes which literally drive people out of their homes?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The honourable member will know that I am not making any threats. I am also aware that in spite of the tone of his question,

he is aware that the taxes payable are a function of assessment and mill rate, and that not only the city of Toronto but all of the metropolitan area has experienced a substantial increase in the market value of the properties. As a matter of fact, that is true right across the province; it is across Canada.

It seems to me that his argument about assessment, while it is a matter of concern for the people who are experiencing the increased assessment, must be moderated by the experience that everyone has, that the actual tax rate is the assessment times the mill rate. Anybody who was elected to council would be very foolish indeed if he did not move in an appropriate way to see that mill rates were reduced as assessments went up. That is the way it is supposed to work, and I know the honourable member is aware of that.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Gordon: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the minister explain why Ellis-Don, which is the doing the work at the SkyDome, is assessed a Workers' Compensation Board rate of 9.91 per cent for doing formwork when the assessed rate for formwork is 12.77 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Yes, I can, if I can find the note. There is a difference between the general contractors' rate and the rate for those doing formwork. While Ellis-Don is doing the formwork, the WCB has, as is typical in these cases, simply assessed Ellis-Don on its more general duties, which are as a general contractor on this project.

Mr. Gordon: I am sure the minister, as Minister of Labour, is concerned about the liability fund, which is up to about \$5.8 billion right now in the province, and is also concerned about the fact that there are loopholes at the present time in this Workers' Compensation Act and how it impacts on various classifications. I am sure it has been brought to his attention too that on this job alone, Ellis-Don will probably save itself somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$450,000 through misclassifying. Would he not think it is his job, as the minister, to see that savings of this sort go towards the liability fund and do not go to the contractor of the SkyDome?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Let us just get one thing clear: there is no misclassifying going on here, and the honourable member should know it if he does not already. Commercial construction companies can be charged under one of two rate groups: either commercial general contractors,

rate group 854, \$9.91 per \$100; or high-rise cement forming, rate group 753—

Mr. Harris: Why should somebody be charged more for the same work? Does that make sense?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) has not been asked for a supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Ellis-Don has been classified into the commercial general contractor category because of the nature of its business. Since Ellis-Don performs all the work associated with the dome project, it is categorized under the commercial general contractors rate group.

This is, I say to my friend, not the first, second, third, fourth or 14th time. It is all covered under regulation 951-5. A thorough review has been done by the chairman of the board, a former colleague of ours, Dr. Elgie, and he confirms to my staff that everything here has been done quite correctly and quite properly.

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORP.

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I was there, and you don't know what you're talking about.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Nickel Belt would like your attention.

Mr. Mackenzie: Why don't you tell the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) to shut up?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Nickel Belt would like to ask a question, if you would allow it.

Mr. Laughren: I can understand why the government does not want to hear my question. I have a question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. The minister will know that Bill 115, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, passed first reading, second reading, went out to committee for public hearings and was referred back to the chamber for third reading. Can the minister tell me why it has not been called for third reading and if he intends to see that it does proceed to third reading this session?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I want to assure the honourable member I am still committed to this legislation. I find it both desirable and necessary, and I hope it can be presented before the end of this session.

Mr. Laughren: That is not nearly good enough. The minister knows full well that the

Attorney General of Florida has asked for an injunction against the sale of these lottery tickets in that state. The minister knows full well that if he does not pass this bill, there will be lottery tickets from other jurisdictions flooding the Ontario market, which will do us a lot of harm in this province, considering the programs lottery sales fund in Ontario.

Can the minister give me one single reason why he will not make an absolute commitment today to make sure Bill 115 is called for third reading this session?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: As I have said, we certainly are still committed to this legislation. I find it rather surprising that the official opposition has stated that when the bill comes forward, it wants to spend several days debating this. I find it also strange that the official opposition has changed its position, because in November 1984 the former minister said the government would not condone this and would take action. I also find it surprising that it has changed its position in that the official critic for the Conservative Party asked me in committee in January 1986 when we were going to take action on this. Why does the opposition not get on board and support it instead of filibustering it for several days?

Mr. Pope: The fact of the matter is that it is not even on the Liberal government House leader's list to be introduced. That is the fact of the matter.

FISHING LICENCE REVENUES

Mr. Pope: My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources, who yesterday blurted out the truth, something we have always suspected, and that is that in spite of his promise some eight months ago, some of the fish licence revenues are going for the hiring of conservation officers. Can he explain why he is breaking his promise to the fishermen and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and increasing the employees and the employee benefits package by more than \$4.5 million this year over the previous year and, in fact, using some of those revenues to hire additional conservation officers?

1450

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: There was never any question that there are those involved in the fishing in Ontario, the sportsmen groups, that fully accept that conservation officers play a major role in taking the whole fisheries.

Mr. Bernier: Come off it.

Mr. Wildman: Oh, come off it, Vince.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I tell the member unequivocally that I never said anything other than there was going to be all this money go into the fishing management, and conservation officers certainly play a very vital role. That has never changed.

Mr. Warner: That is not what you said. New story.

Mr. Pope: The minister has the nerve to stand there and say he did not say something that he clearly said not more than six months ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the member would take his seat for a moment and relax, cool down.

Mr. Pope: I am not going to cool down. I want to ask a question.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary?

Mr. Pope: I have a supplementary question to the Minister of Natural Resources. His own statistics, provided through an answer to a question in Orders and Notices, show virtually no increase this year over last year in the number of fish stocked and no increase this year over last year in the fish production out of the government hatcheries.

Will the minister now admit that the whole thing over the last year was a hoax? He really grabbed that money; he broke his promise to the fishermen; he is using it to do his regular policing programs: closing roads, denying fishing opportunities to the fishermen of this province. In other words, he really misrepresented what he was—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: You promised us fish.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) accused the minister of misrepresenting. Will he withdraw that? Order. Will he withdraw it?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We don't like that word any more.

Mr. Pope: That is not what I said.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: You said "misrepresented."

Mr. Pope: Read back what I said.

Mr. Speaker: Will you withdraw? Order.

Mr. Jackson: Read Hansard.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: It is not courtroom behaviour. You wouldn't act this way in the courtroom.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member accused another member of misrepresenting. Will he withdraw that word?

Mr. Pope: No, I do not think so.

Mr. Speaker: No? Order.

Mr. Barlow: Read Hansard.

Mr. Pope: The Liberal lies have to end some time.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will ask the member once again. Will you withdraw?

Mr. Pope: No. I didn't say what you said I said, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: No? I have no other choice but to name the member.

Mr. Pope left the chamber.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. A new question, the member for Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: Will the Minister of Natural Resources give this House a commitment that he will live up to the—

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is a point of order.

Mr. Harris: Actually, I have two points of order. One, the minister was asked a question that he has not yet answered. Two, I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Wildman: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Harris: The member asked a question and the minister did not answer.

Mr. Wildman: I want to ask a question. Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a point of order.

Mr. Harris: On a further point of order, Mr. Speaker: You asked a member to withdraw something that he indicated to you he did not say. You would not allow me to get on my feet and suggest that you check the record or check Hansard before you possibly make an error that you may regret, that is ask a member to leave for something he did not say. Do you not think it would make sense that you do that before you name a member?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker: On January 28, 1987, the Minister of Natural Resources made a commitment in this House, in answer to a question from my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), that he would spend the money on fisheries enhancement. If he cannot make that commitment again today, he has misrepresented his position and he should resign.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Here we go again. Order. I will wait.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Algoma accused another member of misrepresentation. Would the member withdraw that? Yes or no?

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect to you and to your office, I cannot withdraw unless the minister makes that commitment to the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Algoma will not withdraw that? No? I have no other choice but to name the member.

Mr. Wildman left the chamber.

Interjections.

1500

PETITIONS

STRIKEBREAKING

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would like to present the following petition:

"We, the undersigned, do hereby petition the Minister of Labour to immediately enact legislation to stop the hiring of strikebreakers in Ontario."

FOREST FIRE

Mr. Pierce: I have a petition from the residents north of Stratton, who were subject to a fire on sections 9, 10, 15, 16 and 21 in the geographical township of Pattullo. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, being aware that this fire originated on crown land and/or on MTC road allowance on or before Sunday, April 5, 1987, and given the fact that the MNR was notified about this fire on or before Wednesday, April 8, 1987, yet failed to contain it, are of the opinion that no costs incurred by the MNR in fighting this fire should be charged to the township of Morley and, further, that the losses suffered by land owners should be the responsibility of the MNR and/or the MTC."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TRESPASS TO PROPERTY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Henderson moved first reading of Bill 86, An Act to amend the Trespass to Property Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: The member may have a brief explanation. If any of the other members who are having private conversations could keep them as low as possible, the member would like to explain his bill.

Mr. Henderson: The purpose of the bill is to entitle members of the public to remain on private commercial premises that are open to the public as long as doing so is not significantly interfering with that commercial purpose or with the public's use of the premises. A subsection to this effect is added to section 2 of the act in order to make that amendment and achieve that result.

TOWNSHIP OF CHAPLEAU ACT

Mr. Laughren moved first reading of Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the Township of Chapleau.

Motion agreed to.

AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Before the orders of the day, I would like to table the update of the jobs associated with provincial boards, agencies and commissions. These books are in the library in reasonably general distribution. They list all the jobs available in the provincial agencies, boards and commissions, who occupies the positions, when those appointments come up for reappointment or new appointment and what the salaries are. I know the honourable members on the other side will read them with a great deal of interest.

POLL

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would also like to table a public opinion poll on an interesting subject.

Mr. McClellan: What is the subject?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Television or something. Read it.

NOTICES OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: Before I call for orders of the day, I would like to inform the members that the member for Carleton (Mr. Mitchell) gave notice of dissatisfaction with the answer to a question given by the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway). This will be dealt with this evening in a late show at 6 p.m.

Also, the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) gave notice that he was dissatisfied with the answer given by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). This will also be dealt with at six o'clock this evening.

Mr. Laughren: Can he come back in for that?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Keyes moved second reading of Bill 81, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I would like to elaborate very briefly on the purpose of this bill, which is to increase the size of the Metropolitan Board of Commissioners of Police from five to seven members, with the intent that the Lieutenant Governor in Council will make one appointment and the Metro council will also make one additional appointment.

Mr. Partington: I am pleased to rise in support of the bill. Clearly, a police force the size of the Metropolitan Toronto Police requires a board large enough to deal with its many areas of responsibility. Clearly, those responsibilities are great and require substantial input, substantial skills and knowledge of police affairs. Increasing the number from five to seven will be, I am sure, a step in that direction.

I would like to see the minister go further at some future date and ensure that there is a continuity of expertise among the numbers of members of the police commission, but I am certainly pleased to support the bill presented today.

Ms. Bryden: I rise to speak on Bill 81, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

This bill amends the act by increasing the size of the board from five to seven members. Metro council will appoint one additional member and the province will appoint another. Although it increases the number of Metro members, the bill still maintains the province's overall majority on the board.

The minister has not given us any particular reasons why the board should be enlarged. Has the work load or the responsibilities of the board increased? He has not told us this. How many police commissions in the province are this size, or will this be the largest police commission in Ontario? What new areas of work will the board's members be involved in which would lead to the need for more members? I think the minister should give us this information before we consider second reading.

If there are no adequate answers to these questions, one is tempted to think that the purpose of the bill is to create two more plums to be handed out by Metro council and the provincial government. These positions will become part of the jobs in what is known as ABCs, that is, agencies, boards and commissions, for which there are no job descriptions, no advertising for applicants and no requirements for the appointing bodies, which are Metro council and the Lieutenant Governor in Council,

to seek suggestions from the general public as to who should be considered.

We have ruled out judges as being eligible for appointment to police commissions by a 1983 amendment to the act, but beyond that the appointing bodies can select whomever they like, although the Metro council appointees must be drawn from the members of Metro council.

1510

In the case of the province, there is no restriction of any kind, except to rule out the judges. The province's appointees could be people with no previous connection with police work or any special knowledge of the justice system. They could be people who have not been involved in the administration of criminal law or people who are not familiar with the Police Act. They could even be political hacks, and some past appointments under previous governments appear to have fallen into this category.

What is more, the appointing bodies under this legislation can appoint commissioners for any terms they choose. There is no limit on the term of office and no restriction on the number of reappointments which may be made under this legislation. It seems to me this is a defect in the legislation that should be remedied. Like most of the other appointments to agencies, boards and commissions, the members of a police commission, once appointed, are really answerable to no one as long as they keep within the mandate of the commission. If they appear to stray beyond that mandate, they can only be challenged in court by way of asking for judicial review.

The residents in the east end of Toronto, where my riding is located, recently tried that route to challenge whether the government-appointed members of the Ontario Racing Commission had violated their mandate when they refused to hear the residents living in the vicinity of the Greenwood Race Track and refused to consider their concerns. Unfortunately, the court did not uphold this challenge to the mandate and felt the mandate had been followed. In addition, it awarded court costs against those who had dared to make the challenge.

Getting back to the bill, it seems to me that if the Liberal government is to follow its commitment to open government, it should start to advertise when vacancies of this sort occur and it should seek suggestions from the public as to who would be the most suitable people for having a say in the operation of probably the largest police force in the province. It might even consider whether there should be a greater

representation from ethnic groups or a greater representation from women.

I will say that the provincial government, in its appointments to police commissions, now has a token woman on most commissions. In a few cases, it has two women, but in most cases, of course, the women are still a minority. I do not know what the ethnic representation is on police commissions, but I suspect that those minorities are also underrepresented.

I think, if the government really believes in having representatives of as many interests as are concerned with policing, and that is almost the entire population in some capacity or other, that it should seek nominations for appointments and then choose the ones who seem best suited to the current needs.

There is another issue I want to discuss under this bill; that is, the question of whether Metro council or the province should have a majority on the board. As I have said, under the present five-person board, Metro has two appointees and the province has three, but under Bill 81, each will get one more, which will give Metro three and the province four.

I understand that Metro council feels a majority of the board should be council appointees. They argue that Metro council pays 85 per cent of the costs of the Metro police force but gets 40 per cent of the seats on the board. Under the new bill, they will get about 43 per cent. How can one justify taking a Big Brother attitude to policing in the largest regional municipality in the province that contains about a quarter of the population of the province? How can one justify this lack of municipal autonomy when one sets up regional governments with immense powers over policing, traffic and the control of crime in the attempt to meet all the problems a modern police force has to meet?

It seems to me that representatives appointed by the province are remote from the day-to-day operations of a metropolitan police force and that the appointees should be drawn from people more directly connected with activities in the municipality and with experience in those activities, whatever they may be, in other organizations, in other levels of government or from the general public. I understand the Metro council is agreeable to the enlarged board, but only if it gets both of the two new appointments. It seems to me that is a reasonable position to take.

I understand the minister's argument, as quoted in the newspapers, is that he believes a provincial majority should be maintained on

police commissions so we can have uniformity of law enforcement throughout the province. I am not sure that cookie-cutter uniformity is the best thing. I am not sure that Big Brother should be telling Metropolitan Toronto what kind of police activities it should be carrying on. I am not sure that the province should really have what amounts to a veto on what the municipal police force decides to do.

For example, the Toronto municipal police force set up what is known as a response group for battered wives that would deal with domestic disputes in a specialized way. It had a team of a policeman and a social worker who would respond to domestic dispute calls, but they put it in only as a pilot project in one or two sections of the city. I believe it was quite effective in assisting women who were being battered and who needed more than just to have a policeman knock on the door and say, "Quiet down."

The police commission would like to expand that response group program to the whole city but there is not enough money available to do that. I think that should be partly a provincial responsibility, but we have not seen the majority on the Metropolitan Board of Commissioners of Police helping to produce that extra money so that the program can be spread right across the metropolitan municipality.

There are many other decisions where I think the municipality should have more say—for example, how its police force is administered, what new programs it takes on, how it deploys its forces and how it decides which ones will get the most attention and which ones will not.

1520

Those are local decisions that only somebody really close to the local municipality or the metropolitan municipality can make. Therefore, I think it is perfectly reasonable to accept the enlargement of the Metropolitan Board of Commissioners of Police from five to seven, but to insist that the two extra members should be both appointed by Metro council. That would change the police board makeup to three provincial representatives and four representatives from Metro council. That would change the majority on the board and give it to Metro.

I intend to move this kind of amendment and I hope the members of the House will support that since they spend their working days here in the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, they must be aware of the importance of the metropolitan police force to the 25 per cent of population here. They must be aware of the problems and they must be aware that municipal autonomy in this

particular field is desirable, particularly when it is the largest municipality in the province.

I think we are at the stage where we should let the Metropolitan Toronto police commission get out of short pants and be allowed to run its own show. They will still have three provincial representatives on the board to advise them on overall provincial policies and to help them in implementing provincial plans for modernizing the police forces.

Mind you, the failure to revise the Police Act over the past several years indicates that the province is not really giving leadership in what it thinks should be the rules for modern police forces. That is another area where the province has failed to give guidance to the police forces. The fact that it has majorities on police commissions does not help if the police commissions are operating under an out-of-date Police Act.

For all those reasons, I think we should wait to hear what the minister tells us about the real reasons this change is being made. Also, I would like the minister to tell us how he can justify continuing the provincial majority on the metropolitan police board when the board itself and the metropolitan municipal council itself believe that the majority should be changed at this time to the metropolitan municipality.

Mr. Sterling: This act, while being very brief in its nature, probably will have a fair bit of impact on how the Metropolitan Toronto Police will be run over the next few years, in increasing the number of members on the commission from five to seven. No doubt, this requirement is necessary because of the very large force that comes under this particular commission. In fact, I am aware that this is the largest police force in all Ontario, and that includes the Ontario Provincial Police. They are very close to that number, at any rate. I think it is 5,000 or 6,000 people.

I have some empathy with the position put forward by the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) in terms of the control of the police commission. In the case of Metropolitan Toronto, we are talking about a very large, sophisticated operation. We are talking about very large amounts of financial resources to go towards running this operation. Eighty per cent of those moneys is raised through the local tax base. Therefore, the people who are paying the shot should get to call the shot, in my humble opinion.

However, the one part on which I would perhaps disagree with the member for Beaches-Woodbine would be the nature of the appointment power that might be given to Metropolitan

Toronto. In talking with a number of people involved in the policing world over the last two years when I was the critic for the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes), I found it was not so much a concern as to the power of appointment but, in fact, who was appointed. The concern of the people involved with not only the Metropolitan Toronto Police force but also other police forces was the problem of politicizing the whole police commission.

Therefore, I would like to hear the Solicitor General's response to an amendment which I may put forward and which, if supported by this Legislature, would give the majority appointment power to the metropolitan council. I would like his response to giving one appointment to the chairman of metropolitan council, as is now the case; having two members of metropolitan council appointed by metropolitan council; having three persons appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council; and the very last one, having one more person who is not an elected person appointed by metropolitan council. This would give metropolitan council the majority of the appointments but would limit the number of elected people to three and the number of nonelected people to four, including both provincial and metropolitan appointments.

This would perhaps lead to a model which the minister would want to follow in the future, and it alleviates concerns on both sides; that is, it answers the question of who pays the dollar getting the right to call the shots in having the majority on appointments. It also alleviates the concerns of overpoliticizing police commissions so that they do not act in the same manner as some other committees of council act in terms of dealing with issues. I think there is an important distinction between a police commission and other work that a municipal council undertakes.

I would ask the minister to respond to that suggestion before I have an opportunity to put forward that kind of an amendment.

Mr. McClellan: I want to make a short comment at this point in the discussion as a representative from the city of Toronto.

We have a difficult situation in the city of Toronto. We have a community of minorities, a totally cosmopolitan community, with a great many multicultural neighbourhoods and sub-communities, and our police force does not represent the diversity and the variety of our multicultural mosaic in Metropolitan Toronto. I say to the Solicitor General, that creates a serious problem of law enforcement and a serious problem of public safety.

I recall that when a wanted criminal came from the United States, from California, entered Canada, went to Alberta and then was traced as having entered Metropolitan Toronto, he was described by representatives of the police forces as having "disappeared into Chinatown." The gentleman in question was of Chinese background.

1530

It is bizarre and grotesque to state that a perfect stranger can come into a cohesive, tightly-knit community, such as the Chinese-Canadian community of downtown Toronto, and disappear. What they are saying is the person disappeared from the point of view of the law enforcement officials who are completely external and completely shut out of that community. They had no way of entering the community. They did not know who the leaders of the community were. They did not know who the people in the community were. So their escapee, from their point of view, disappeared into the community.

Of course you cannot disappear into an urban village in Metropolitan Toronto any more than you can disappear into a small town in another part of Ontario. If somebody new comes into a neighbourhood there is not that level of anonymity. This speaks to a serious problem, as I said, of public safety. I use this particular example because it occurred recently and it was commented upon by a number of leaders from the Chinese-Canadian community as an example of the kind of problem that our police force has because of its failure to diversify, its failure to recruit from the various minority communities that make up this community of minorities which we call Metropolitan Toronto.

The heart of the problem, and the responsibility for its solution, rests with the commission. There is a particular responsibility on this government as it examines this issue and as it makes additional appointments to the commission, to come to grips with this critical problem. In a city of between two million and three million people, we simply cannot afford to have a police force that is so shut out from most minority communities that it is incapable of providing law enforcement; it is incapable of knowing what is going on in the street, who has come into town, who has gone out of town, what is going on in this neighbourhood, what is going on in that neighbourhood. Quite frankly it puts us at risk.

The days of height restrictions and other barriers to recruitment from minority communities are gone, but we still have not come to grips with the fundamental problem. I am surprised it

has taken us so long to make this adjustment. I would like to have some response. This may not be the most appropriate place to do it, but I would like to have some response from the Solicitor General as to how seriously the government regards this matter that I am raising; what the government intends to do through its appointment powers to the commission to try to overcome it. The obvious solution that suggests itself is that the government move as quickly as possible to add to the commission representatives of some of the major minority communities that go to make up our community of minorities.

Until there is a measure of balance in the commission, and a clear adoption of affirmative action employment policies throughout the force, we are not going to be able to come to grips with this problem. As I said before, it represents a matter of increasing public safety if the police force is simply unable to engage the community that lives in Metropolitan Toronto on a knowledgeable and intimate basis.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I do appreciate the comments that have been raised by the three honourable members with regard to the amendment. Perhaps we could trace, historically, the whole aspect of the establishment of boards of commissioners of police, but I think it is fair to say simply that everyone is aware there are certain regulations set out in the Police Act which determine when a municipality must have its own police force, sizes, etc. In order to govern those forces, the establishment either of a committee of council or of a board of commissioners of police has been the method whereby this jurisdiction has been provided.

In the case of Metropolitan Toronto, the jurisdiction comes from an excerpt of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act, part XII, section 174, which refers to the Metropolitan Board of Commissioners of Police. Under section 177, it sets out exactly who shall be represented on that board and who shall be appointed. Again, it is the chairman of the Metropolitan council, one member of the Metropolitan council appointed by the Metropolitan council, and three persons appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The amendment is to those two latter clauses, 177(1)(b) and (c), whereby one additional member will be appointed by both Metro council and Ontario.

I want to save the comments with regard to my feelings on that type of representation, the balance being with the province, because I think that is the whole heart of an issue that has been

raised here today by all three speakers. I do appreciate sincerely that they have used this opportunity to indicate there will most likely be an amendment. I might as well mention in advance that I will very strongly oppose such an amendment. Should it pass, as it would indicate that it would, then of course I will have to use what other avenues are open to me in order to be sure that the position of the government, which has been the principle of the past administration and which I have endorsed, will continue.

I might also say that for many years there were three men—excuse me, three persons—

Mr. McClellan: It was three men; that is part of the problem.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: That was what it was in actual fact, but “person” would be the best terminology to use.

Eventually, with a great deal of representation by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario—when I sat on that board, when I was mayor of the city of Kingston, I made representation, along with others, to be sure that would be changed from three to five. We were extremely pleased when that happened, because there were many difficulties with only having three members. You had the problem of one person being absent for a meeting; you would end up with two persons, one the chairman, one the other. If you wanted to follow some parliamentary procedure, it was literally impossible to do business appropriately with those two members.

Eventually, it moved to five, which allowed for a much easier quorum, a much greater debate. It even allowed for the occasional subcommittee, which used to be done quite often for the matter of salary negotiations.

The main intent behind the request of Metro Toronto, in its letter to me with regard to this issue, was because of the increased work load in this municipality. As has been cited by the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), it is the largest police force in the province. It is one that, as you can well imagine, requires a great deal of time from the members dealing with the issues, whether from the administrative point of view, discipline hearings or the rest.

Metro’s request was for two things. It said it would like to see more than just one of the boroughs represented, so there could be greater municipal input into local policing matters. At the moment the chairman is there and one other member from one of the Metro towns or cities; it would like to have increased input. At the same time, it was concerned because of the work load; it said that in its opinion it was sufficient to justify

additional members. After meeting with them I discussed it with Mr. Flynn, their chairman. I certainly was convinced and felt it was very true that their management function could be more appropriately carried out if we enhanced the numbers. It is true they also raised the issue that the numbers should be changed as far as the balance is concerned on appointments. I gave the same comments that I will give to the members in a few moments as to why I do not support the change from the balance of a majority being appointed by the province versus the municipality.

1540

One of the things we have done in appointments to commissions is that we have looked at the aspect of judges. There was always a judge on every one. There are still many judges sitting on boards of commissioners of police. As they have reached a specific age or state of health a number of them have decided to resign. When that has happened, we have not made reappointments of judges. Also, we have looked at the issue of lawyers. We felt that lawyers bring a great wealth of knowledge and expertise to the field, but we have been extremely careful—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: That is with some of them; there are some who would do that.

We look carefully to see they are not actively involved in the practice of criminal law which would then tend to suggest there was a potential for a conflict of interest. We have looked very carefully at the calibre of people we have appointed. Both the member for Beaches-Woodbine and the member for Bellwoods have made reference to it. It has been my pleasure in the last two years to have had the opportunity to review the résumé, the curriculum vitae, of every person who has been put forward by the province for appointment to the boards. They have been thoroughly checked by my staff and the deputy to be sure that they have been exemplary in their lives as citizens of this province, that there are no major areas of concern on their past actions and that they have a general knowledge of the communities in which they live. We take a great deal of time in looking at those checks and balances before recommending their appointments to the Premier (Mr. Peterson), then to the cabinet and then to the Lieutenant Governor.

I am sure the member for Beaches-Woodbine—while it has been my pleasure to appoint some 68 women to boards, there is no way any of them should be considered, nor would I want to ever consider them, as token women. I am sure they

would bristle with anger if they heard that suggestion made in the House today. The calibre of women we have placed on these boards has been outstanding. I do not really need to cite specific instances but I must say that the lady who is on the Metropolitan Board of Commissioners of Police is an outstanding person and also, I point out to the member for Bellwoods, one who reflects one of our ethnocultural groups within Toronto; that is, the Italian community.

We also have the appointment on the Metro board of the first black, in the person of Roy Williams, an outstanding individual who has brought a great deal of credit to himself, to his ethnic community and certainly in his work now on the Metro board.

Every one of the people I have appointed has been an exemplary individual. It has been my aim to be sure there is a woman appointed to every board of this province. I have not quite fulfilled that as my personal goal, but I am well on the way with some boards having two women on them. It has nothing to do, as someone has suggested, with a token female but rather that a female point of view on any board, commission or agency of this government brings a somewhat different aspect to the debate that goes on around that table.

I believe that in this day when we are dealing more with family violence, sexual assault, child abuse and assaultive behaviours, this is the voice that has been left unheard for all too long. Therefore, the appointment of women to boards has brought a balance to the deliberations so we can be sure that the views of women are well heard in police corridors. I will just leave it at that point on those issues.

I want to turn to the point raised by the member for Bellwoods on the cosmopolitan nature of police forces. I suggest at the moment, on this Metro commission at least, and it was in reference perhaps not only to Metro commission but to others that the member was speaking, that we have a balance with one black and one Italian, direct descendants who are on the commission. Across the province as I have looked at those appointments, and I cannot give him today the actual background of every one of the more than 150 individuals I have appointed, but I can assure the honourable member that is an aspect that is looked at; those areas of women and ethnicity, as well as competency, interest in community and general ability.

I think it would be appropriate if I just talked for a moment on that cosmopolitan aspect of the Metro Toronto force and about some of the many

things that have been happening in the last year that have been so significant with respect to some of the new programs.

Just a week ago, it was my pleasure to be present at the swearing in of the most recent cadet class of recruits for Metropolitan Toronto Police force. There we saw a group of some 40 men and women of 17 different racial backgrounds. I suggest that 17 racial backgrounds in a recruit class is something of which any force, particularly Metro Toronto, can be justly proud.

These were people for whom the term "cadet" is somewhat misleading, because somehow in one's mind one thinks of a cadet as someone in the early stages of a military career or in a high school cadet corps as they used to exist. The term "cadet" simply refers to an introductory program to policing. These men and women came from literally every province in Canada, 17 racial backgrounds and represented ages from 20 to 45. That gives members an idea of the program of selection and recruitment that Metro is engaged in to be sure that it meets some of those concerns that have been expressed by members of this House and by members of ethnic groups within society of this province.

I have to refer to the work of a woman, Jean Boyd, who has worked tirelessly in looking at methods of recruiting members of ethnic groups and bringing them into police forces. I commend it as excellent reading for any member of this House. We have felt strongly about it, and the presentation that has been made to the cabinet committee on race relations, of which I am pleased to be a member. Therefore, we consistently bring the issues of our racial community into the discussions of those persons who are there. The Solicitor General, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling), the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye), the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) and so on down the line. We endorse the report and have now, through the Ontario Police Commission, distributed it as a document to every police force in Ontario commending it as being an excellent document to use as incentive to bring more ethnic members into policing in this province. It is working for Metro. It will work for the majority of our communities across the province.

Yesterday I met with Chief Harding, the chairman and others of a committee established just last August of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, who have likewise become concerned about the role of ethnicity in police forces, or perhaps more appropriate I would say

the topic of a major symposium they had a year ago was Policing in a Multicultural Society. I commend that organization for having the initiative to do that, and I commend the local committee in Ontario that is trying to see how we, perhaps with government involvement, can do a better educational task of awakening police forces and the public across the entire province to what is expected of them today in policing in a multicultural society. That issue is one that will reap great rewards not only here in Metro but elsewhere as well.

1550

I may not have answered all questions, but I would turn more particularly now to the matter of a proposed amendment, but rather than an amendment per se to look at the philosophy of who should be responsible for appointing members to boards of commissioners of police.

As members know, boards of commissioners of police were created in the first instance to provide a buffer between the police and the political authority of a municipality. The board system, which is coupled with the supervisory role of the Ontario Police Commission, has made police sufficiently accountable to the civilian authority and at the same time has given them the independence they need in order to perform a proper law enforcement function. It is important to somewhat insulate the police in a reasonable way against any suggestion of political interference or even the appearance of it. In my opinion, the board system has achieved this intended purpose and works extremely well.

A board of commissioners of police is designed to manage a police force and not to provide a forum where political issues are debated. Such debates are properly carried out among the elected representatives in the municipal councils, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and elsewhere.

I am not in favour of diminishing provincial control over local police governing bodies in the light of the province's constitutional responsibility for the administration of justice. It has long been established that while municipalities are generally responsible under the Police Act for policing and the maintenance of law and order within their boundaries, the members of a police force are not employees or servants of the municipality or even of the police board.

Moreover, while a police board is expressly empowered to make regulations for the government of a police force and while the members of that police force are bound to carry out and obey the lawful directions of the board, the board

cannot make regulations that are inconsistent with those made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and cannot lawfully give directions to any member of a police force prescribing the duties of his office. Those duties are already prescribed by this Legislature in the Police Act. Such duties are of a public nature and are not owing to a municipality or a police board by which an officer has been appointed. In this context then, it is not unreasonable that the majority of members on police boards should remain directly accountable to this Legislature and the province.

I believe the system we have, with the current composition of boards—it has been five—achieves a proper balance of representation. In this situation, in order to answer one of the questions from the member for Beaches-Woodbine, this will be the only board in Ontario that has seven members. The majority of them have five, and constantly new people, increasing from three to five as allowed by the legislation. Two municipal councillors, in this case including the head of council, are members of most boards. Municipal councils therefore have a very direct and a very significant input into the management of the local police force. The other three members, of course, are appointed by the province.

It was suggested that there was nowhere else where the province contains the majority of representation yet pays the lesser amount of the tax dollar. I suggest that there can be several examples, even in reverse. There are certainly some municipalities in this province where the government hands out unconditional grants, and also where it hands out grants in lieu of taxes, which are greater in amount than those raised by local taxation. In those instances, the province has not insisted on having major representation.

For that reason, in this particular instance, I cannot support a proposed amendment that would totally shift the principle on which police governing authority has been established from the beginning of our policing in Ontario. To do so for this one board would immediately bring upon us the request of all the other boards in this province to do likewise.

I was a member of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. I have met with the AMO members. I have discussed this issue with the honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaitre), and the stance I have taken is that we must continue to keep the majority representation appointed by the province.

Looking again at our appointments at a municipal level, these appointees, which I

review carefully, select from the community at large, having concern for the ethnicity of the individual, the competency of the individual, and as I said earlier in this case the fact that a good percentage must be female. Many of them, by the way, have served in previous roles on municipal governments. I can think of several at the moment in the Niagara Peninsula, in eastern Ontario and in western Ontario where there are former members of council sitting on those boards.

At the moment it is the method we use. Then those provincial appointees are removed from local politics and, as I have said earlier, are certainly accountable to the government of Ontario, which is in turn accountable to the public electorate.

It has been our experience that police departments and police boards are responsible to the local needs and the desires.

I believe that basically covers the majority of points raised by the three honourable members in their discussion on this amendment. Although it has been indicated that there may well be an amendment, and I do appreciate that indication, I would urge that this House support the implementation of Bill 81, which will allow Metropolitan Toronto to increase the number of members in the board of commissioners of police from five to seven, with one appointee by Metro council and one by the province.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

1600

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE ACT

Hon. Mr. Kwinter moved second reading of Bill 56, An Act to control temporarily Automobile Insurance Rates in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I wish to move second reading of the Automobile Insurance Act, 1987, an act to give legal force and effect to the interim control of automobile insurance premiums ordered on April 23, 1987. As members know, on April 23, I ordered that the rates for categories of automobile insurance be capped at the levels in force on that date.

The bill before us today ensures that the rate related to a specific class or factor used to set premiums by insurance companies cannot increase beyond its April 23 level. It further provides that an insurance company cannot create new rules subsequent to April 23 that could result in a consumer being shifted to a different, higher category.

On April 23, I also ordered a 10 per cent reduction in rates existing for two rate categories. These categories are male drivers under age 25 and taxicabs insured through the Ontario Facility Association. It is our belief that these groups, having experienced particularly serious rate increases, are deserving of special consideration.

I would like to point out to the members that passage of this bill is necessary before those policyholders can receive their refunds. There is no other expeditious way to unequivocally ensure this result. In the best interest of Ontario policyholders, it is important that there be no undue delay in passing the bill.

During debate of the bill, I will be making some motions for amendments that are for the purpose of clarification. They do not change the government's position regarding the bill.

As members know, the government introduced capping measures pending the establishment and operation of an independent rate review board. I expect to introduce legislation to establish this board very soon.

I would once again remind members that the act before us today is one in a series of insurance-related reforms the government has announced and will continue to work towards. It is our intention to take whatever action necessary to ensure fair and equitable automobile insurance coverage for consumers at a fair and reasonable price.

In closing, let me remind the members that over 300,000 Ontario vehicle owners must await enactment of this legislation before receiving rate rebates and reductions. I am therefore urging speedy passage of the bill.

Mr. Gregory: I just want to take a few minutes to speak on this particular subject, not as the critic but as someone who is vitally interested in this particular category. I compliment the minister for taking some action. I say that with reservation because we are really not taking that much action at this point.

The idea of freezing—perhaps we should say “freezing” rather than “capping” at this point because it is not really a cap at the particular date the minister states, April 23. I am not debating this point. It is true that even though the cap went on on April 23, if someone's rate was set back in perhaps May 1986, the insurance company, as I understand it, is entitled to increase on a certain percentage per month over the months that have passed since the last rate was charged. I can understand that. You cannot freeze or cap rates retroactively. It is not too difficult to understand,

but it is something that the party to the left is going to try to get its teeth into, obviously.

The minister has been hearing about this, and of course I cannot have too much sympathy for him because for the past several months he has been waffling around all over the place and has not really taken too much action. Any criticism he is receiving from my friend the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) is probably duly deserved because, with his nonaction, the minister has not really given the member anything but a target to shoot at.

I suppose the capping has to be done to give the minister an opportunity to come up with an intelligent way of determining rates in the insurance business. One of the intelligent things the minister has done is to let the member for Welland-Thorold know that he is not in favour of government insurance; at least I think he said that, although there were days when it seemed he was saying something else. I am not sure. I see the minister nodding his head, so I am pleased to read into this that he is not in favour of government-run insurance. Does he want to nod his head again? Then I will be even surer. That is good.

I am very pleased to hear that, because as I have expressed it in the past, I certainly am not in favour of government-run insurance, not from any selfish aspect but with a background and some knowledge of the business from having been in it many, many years. I do know or am of the strong opinion that the government cannot run an insurance company any better than it can run many other things it tries to run and fails miserably at.

The examples usually used are those of the western provinces. In most cases, these government-run insurance plans are brought in at a time of a New Democratic government; then the succeeding governments tend to try to find ways of getting out of it but find that once they are into it it is difficult to get out of, even though, on a subsidy basis, it certainly costs the taxpayers money.

I suppose if you are benefiting from a lower rate as a result of government-run insurance, it is because you tend to be a driver who probably should be paying more. You are getting the benefit of the kind-hearted taxpayer under a government-run plan. You probably could say that government-run insurance is good for some of the people, but a very small percentage of them. The rest of the people pay a penalty for having to subsidize the bad drivers.

The only thing about this bill that puzzles me is why the minister felt it necessary to get into the cosmetics of the automatic reduction of 10 per cent for taxis and categories of male drivers. This, to me, is cosmetic. All he is trying to do here is to appeal to a certain group with an outright payoff. When we are finished here, I hope he can come up with a detailed mathematical explanation of how he arrived at the 10 per cent reduction for young male drivers and for taxpayers. On what financial basis did—

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Not taxpayers—taxi drivers.

Mr. Gregory: Taxi drivers. Did I say taxpayers? I was trying to cover all the categories the minister is shafting. That would include taxpayers and taxi drivers. I am covering the whole gamut. If I said taxpayers, I apologize; I should have said taxi drivers.

I am interested in the minister's logic and financial wizardry that came up with that particular figure of 10 per cent for those two categories. I wonder why he did not include transport companies in that; transport companies have been experiencing a great deal of trouble getting insurance and with the exorbitant rates they are having to pay. I wonder why the minister did not go beyond that into other insurance fields and include some of the trouble spots we have been hearing about. School boards, for example, have trouble getting liability insurance. Why did the minister not arbitrarily pick them out of the sky and give them a reduction of 10 per cent on their rates?

The minister must have been receiving an awful lot of letters from taxi drivers or male drivers under the age of 25. That is the only thing I can put it down to, because there is absolutely no logic to it. I am not finding fault with it other than that legislation is not usually done that way. You do not arbitrarily take a figure out of the heavens and apply it to temporarily silence two rather vocal groups. At least I do not think that is the way legislation should be prepared.

What I see the minister doing here is rewarding somebody, giving a reward for keeping quiet while he is trying to get his thoughts together. They might have to be quiet a long time from what I have seen. The minister has arbitrarily done this and has said to everybody else: "You can go fish. You do not qualify for my generosity today—only if you are a male and under 25 or if you happen to drive a taxi."

Why the minister has bothered to do that does not make sense. Why did he not just cap the rates at that point until he could determine accurately

what the rates should be or until the insurance companies could determine accurately what the rates should be for these categories? For all the minister and I know, the rate being charged for males under 25 might be quite correct. It might be totally in error, but it might be quite correct. He has now reduced the rate by 10 per cent. Is he now saying that if the insurance companies find that the rates for taxicabs and young males under 25 are quite correct in the first place, he is going to penalize them with 10 per cent again, he is going to have to reverse himself? That is not too difficult for a Liberal; they do it all the time. He might have to suddenly come back and say, "Oops, we were wrong again."

1610

Does the minister see what is bothering me? It is the arbitrary way in which he has done this. If he wants to cap it for everybody, then so be it. He should cap it for everybody until such time as we get the insurance companies to clean up their act, revise their act or do something that makes it a little more fair in the eyes of the people, and then wait until that is done. To yank out a couple of categories and say, "You are deserving of my kindness this week, so we will give you a reduction of 10 per cent," really smacks of government insurance. By doing that, he is doing the same thing he would be doing if he brought in government insurance. He is treating everybody the same. It does not matter what one's driving record is.

Included in the 10 per cent reduction for male drivers under the age of 25 is that category of male drivers under 25 that causes all the problems in the rates anyway.

If a male driver under 25 is paying \$800 a year—if he has had a couple of accidents he is probably paying more than that—but let us say, for example, he is paying \$800 a year and he has had a couple of accidents, the minister is going to reduce his rate by \$80. That does not seem to me to be too smart. It is certainly not accurate, but it does discriminate against every other category of driver, including those male drivers over the age of 25—age 26, for example. That driver does not get the 10 per cent reduction and yet his driving record might be identical to that of the fellow under 25.

How does the minister rationalize setting himself up as a judge and saying that, automatically, everybody under 25 who is a male deserves a 10 per cent decrease in his rates? "If you happen to be 25 and a half, tough luck kid." That seems to be the attitude.

Mr. Swart: The rough justice of the inflation act.

Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, look who is here. I would hate to think I wasted my remarks without the member for Welland-Thorold being here. I am glad to see him.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We are listening very closely. It will come in handy in the next election.

Mr. Gregory: Any time the member wants to use that on me in the next election, he is welcome to try it in Mississauga East. We are in favour of fair play there, and that means fair play for everybody, not just—

Mr. Swart: For the insurance companies.

Mr. Gregory: —not just insurance companies, not just male drivers under age 25 and not just taxi drivers. The minister is in favour of only males under 25 and taxi drivers. I do not know what that indicates. It probably does not indicate a great deal other than he needed something to catch the attention of the public. He immediately caught the attention of every male driver under 25. That is marvellous. That is great election fodder, but that is all it is. It is designed and done only to appeal to a certain voter group. I find it rather shameful to take that approach.

I have no axe to grind with the taxi industry, none whatsoever, but I am quite sure every taxi driver is not under the age of 25, so there has to be another reason. We have taxi drivers who are 45, 55, some of them 75 perhaps. They cover the whole spectrum. Suddenly, out of the blue, taxi drivers are going to be given a 10 per cent bonus on their insurance rates.

I would love to hear the minister's explanation of why it is specifically taxi drivers. Why not panel truck drivers? Why not transport truck drivers? Why not men over 80? One can pick any category he wants. Why not? Not the minister. He picked taxi drivers. He must have had some interesting conversations with taxi drivers. It is fine for the minister to have conversations with taxi drivers and get their opinions, but perhaps he should get the opinions of people besides taxi drivers. He might have determined in his wisdom to have exempted many other groups, rather than just those two.

I think he has made himself look rather foolish by taking those two categories and reducing them by 10 per cent, with the exclusion of everybody else. I really do. I do not understand the logic. If the minister is honest with himself, I am sure he does not understand his own logic or the logic of the people who gave him that gem to put in this,

other than that it might look good in the Toronto Star headline which would say, "Kwinter Reduces Insurance Price and Insurance Premiums 10 per cent for all those under 25." Rah, rah. All those new voters and new young Liberals. They do not like the government's Meech Lake decision; maybe they will like this one.

"The taxi drivers are collectively going to parade up Bay Street in honour of Monte Kwinter because they are getting a 10 per cent reduction." They are going to get a 10 per cent reduction in their insurance rates. I think that is marvellous. I would not count on it though.

I would ask the minister to examine that, because it certainly bothers me and I am sure it bothers other people how he has become so arbitrary when I thought he was a nice guy.

Mr. Ramsay: Not Tory hacks, just regular hacks.

Mr. Gregory: I am sorry, I missed that aside there. I missed that rude interruption.

Getting on to that subject, I feel quite strongly about maintaining a healthy insurance industry in this province, not from having any particular axe to grind for the insurance companies, any more than I do for banks or any other financial institution, but I do feel there is a place in Ontario for a very strong financial institution that, after all, among many other things, has made this province very strong.

All we hear from the left side is the enormous profits that are made by insurance companies, but I do have to point out the fact that if the government eliminates that industry by bringing in a government plan, it is eliminating all the good things that insurance companies can do—and do—and that is providing capital for building funds, for housing developments, for hospitals, for almost anything. A lot of this money comes from insurance companies, which of course is the way those funds are invested. Without that investment, the insurance rates would be much higher.

I do not find the funding operation of insurance companies evil. I do not find they are great big ogres and they are milking the poor and taking all that money and getting rich and all their shareholders are running around in chauffeur-driven limousines. No, very few people do that today. Only ministers of the crown drive around in chauffeur-driven limousines.

Mr. D. W. Smith: Do you remember that?

Mr. Gregory: I remember those good old days. They were very good. That was one of the things I was sorry to give up, because it saved my insurance rates from possibly going up if there

was any accident. I was not driving. I could blame somebody else. It was nice to have one. I am sure they are making the most of it. Not the member but his minister friends, the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), the honourable minister in charge of—I forget what it is he is in charge of.

Mr. Ramsay: Limos.

Mr. Gregory: He is the minister of limos down here, and stealing copyrighted statements. He also enjoys the benefit of a limo, and I think that is marvellous. I think he needs all the protection he can get. To have a driver drive him around is much better for him.

There is a great deal of education going to have to take place among the public in regard to insurance. I know this is not the exact point of this particular bill, but it is within the theme of the bill, so, with the greatest respect, Mr. Speaker, if I do tend to stray a bit off the specific point of the bill and talk in generalities, I hope you will forgive me and certainly bring it to my attention, as I am sure you will.

There is a lot of education of the general public going to have to take place. I do not mean that in a patronizing way at all, but I think people tend to look at their automobile insurance in the same fashion as they did years ago. They have not really updated their thinking regarding insurance.

I did mention a couple of these points a short time ago when we had the emergency debate on insurance, but I think it bears repeating. Look at the collision section of an automobile insurance policy: years ago, when deductibles were first brought into policies, the thing to do was to have a \$100 deductible on collision. Then, a few years later, they brought in the \$250 deductible.

1620

Believe it or not, the theory there, as I read it, was that at that time \$100 was approximately a week's pay. You do not have to go back too far to remember when \$100 was a week's pay. The idea was that if you had an accident with your car and you had to have it repaired under the collision section of your policy, you paid the first \$100. In other words, you paid a week's pay towards that, and the insurance company paid the rest.

That is fine, and perhaps when the \$250 deductible alternative was brought in, that also, during a period of time, represented a week's pay. People have not adjusted their thinking on this at all; if we are going to use that as the basis for it, in other words, figure they could pay a week's pay towards the damage, then maybe the deductible should be increased again.

There is another alternative available, but not too many people know about it; insurance agents do not remind you because there is not as much money in it. I do not say that as a slap at them; they sell the best product they can. Why not a \$500 deductible on collision today? You do not have to do much more than dent a fender and you are into a \$2,000 bill. With a \$500 deductible, the driver pays the first \$500 of an accident. That does wonders in reducing your premium. It does a remarkable job in reducing the premium you pay.

There is also the comprehensive section. Most people carry a comprehensive with \$25 deductible; \$25 is so ridiculous that a lot of people who repair windshields in cars now say, "We will pay you the deductible." It is an infinitesimal amount compared to the cost of a new wraparound windshield today. In order to save themselves money on premiums, people should be considering, perhaps, a higher deductible on a windshield; you do not break them every day. Perhaps they could save themselves a lot of money if they increased their deductible on comprehensive.

Those two things alone could drastically lower insurance premiums people pay. They would still be in line with their income, in the same proportion as they were many years ago when these things were instituted. I do not see myself as being in the insurance business ever again but if I were, I would be reminding people of this and suggesting to people that there is a way of cutting down their insurance costs, by bringing their policies up to date with the 1980s, rather than the way it is now: up to date with the 1960s.

We have the responsibility to bring that to people's attention. I do not think agents are going to do that, because people do not tend to do things if it cuts into their incomes. It is something that is available. As a matter of fact, when I renewed my own policy this time, I did those very things; I saved myself several hundred dollars a year just by increasing those deductibles.

That is not going to be of much help to a young driver or a taxi driver. Taxi drivers, I guess, tend to get a fair number of dings and have a lot of repairs to do to their cars. Perhaps a larger deductible might be totally out of order; I do not know.

Basically, we are in favour of what the minister is doing here as a temporary measure. I am pleased to note that the suggestion for this—I do not think the minister is going to admit it—came from the leader of the official opposition several weeks before the minister brought it in; I did not hear him stand up and give the member credit for

it, nor do I expect to, but at any rate it is nice to know that even from this side of the House we are being of some help in shaping policy.

I am only saying this because the New Democrats tend to do this all the time. They take responsibility for everything the government does. Of course, in their case, it is true because they have been controlling the government for two years, but in our case it is delightful for us to know that we have had a hand in shaping policy on this particular bill.

I hope this is not the end of it. I do not think the minister can expect to just cap this, then have an election and hope the whole thing will go away if his party happens to win a majority. I think he is going to have to go further than this and take some definite action on insurance rates. People are not going to accept the fact that he has put in a stopgap, Band-Aid solution to keep them quiet while he gets through an election and, hopefully, a majority and then he can proceed to do nothing.

The minister has to resign himself to the fact that, having ventured into this area, he is going to have to go all the way. If he is not happy with the way insurance companies determine rates, then he had better give them some expertise and tell them how he wants them to determine rates. He is going to have to do that with some fairness. He cannot just arbitrarily walk in and say: "We do not care what your costs are. You are going to cut everybody's rates 50 per cent." I do not think he can do that.

The minister should be prepared to go further, realizing this is a stopgap measure that is not going to last for ever. People are going to say: "Okay. You have done that. What are you going to do now?" What we have here is another edition of rent control, only it applies to insurance premiums. The minister is getting his feet wet; he has ducked his feet in the water. It will be interesting to see what he does next.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Polsinelli): Questions and comments of the member for Mississauga East?

Mr. Swart: No questions. I just want to speak on the issue.

I would like to say right at the beginning that seldom have I risen to speak on a bill when I have such a gut feeling of disgust about the bill and the motivation behind it as I have about Bill 56, An Act to control temporarily Automobile Insurance Rates in Ontario.

We know it is part of a package. There are going to be at least two bills. We know the minister has put them in a big box and tried to give them all kinds of publicity. He has wrapped

it up with tinsel, bound it up in gold ribbon, but when the contents are fully seen and examined, they are seen for what they are in size. That is about the size of a pea, and a shrivelled one at that. Never has the expression "Too little, too late" been more apropos than it is with regard to this bill and the other statements that have been made recently by the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Kwinter).

The member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) stated that his party was supporting this, that in fact the credit should go to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) for mentioning this—I am not sure—I think he said about six weeks ago. I want to assure the member for Mississauga East that the members of this party, including me, do not want to take any credit for this bill, but I would like to remind the member that my leader and I both proposed more than 18 months ago that there be a freeze placed on insurance rates, and a real freeze, at that time.

Yes, it is too little and it is too late. The crisis in insurance, and auto insurance as part of the insurance package—certainly liability insurance has been in just as great a crisis; perhaps on the question of price, it has even been in a greater crisis than auto insurance for at least two and a half years. In all that time, the minister has resisted doing anything to resolve this problem.

1630

Perhaps that is not quite fair. He has done two things. After we badgered him for six months from this corner of the House, had a couple of special debates and week after week brought to his attention the horrible injustices and the horrendous increases that were taking place in insurance, in January 1986 he appointed a one-man commission. That one man who was named to the commission was Mr. Slater. He reported in May, a year ago last month, and made certain recommendations. He was pretty inconclusive in many of the recommendations he made. The minister decided to do nothing about it and then in November of last year he appointed another one-man commission to review what the first one-man commission had done and to report back by November of this year. What tremendous action that is to meet this horrendous crisis that has existed for two and a half years.

I will deal with this a little more fully. Because he realized that the public out there was pretty unhappy with the government of this province, particularly with him and his ministry on the issue of auto insurance, he made a statement on April 23 and said he was going to bring in two bills. I want to point out that it is now more than

seven weeks since he made that statement and that if he had really wanted to do something positive, he would have dealt with it before the seven weeks were up. I point out that the second bill has not yet even been tabled in this House. That is how sincere the minister is about taking action on this matter of the excessive insurance rates and the tremendous injustices existing in the insurance industry.

The bill really does nothing even as an interim measure; nothing real. I want to say, and I say it advisedly, that the minister was insincere in what he said back on April 23 about these insurance companies. He blasted the insurance companies; he was going to take great measures; he talked later about his going to fine them \$100,000. Then he did not even follow up on what he had said in the House. If he had really wanted to do something two months ago when he made that statement, or two months before that or two months before that, he would have proclaimed section 371 of the Insurance Act. All the power was there in the act and all he had to do was proclaim it.

Let me read that section of the act. "It is the duty of the superintendent, after due notice and a hearing before him, to order an adjustment of the rates for automobile insurance whenever it is found by him that any such rates are excessive, inadequate, unfairly discriminatory or otherwise unreasonable."

That has been in the Insurance Act for the past 50 years. There has not been a minister who has had the courage to proclaim it. The present minister did not have the courage to proclaim it either because he would have been forced into doing something real. He had been given the power. He did not want power to do anything real. He wanted to make statements so the public out there, he hoped, would think he was going to do something about the insurance situation in this province.

I brought out in the House a week ago yesterday that the minister had not even bothered, after he made that statement, such a firm sounding statement, and let me quote it once again: "Effective immediately"—not when the bill is passed—"the rates for all automobile insurance categories are capped at the levels in force today." That was April 23.

As I pointed out in the House a week ago last Monday, there was sent to me rather recently a letter which was sent out to all brokers by one insurance company, the USF&G Insurance Co. of Canada. This was sent out as direction for their brokers. It says: "It may be some time before the

proposed legislation is enacted and, in the meantime, we are advised by the ministry to continue business as usual including the rate adjustments...effective May 1, 1987, for new business and June 1, 1987, for renewals."

I would think, and I am sure the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) would agree, that if the minister was sincere when he made that statement back on April 23, he would have at least notified the insurance companies that he expected them to abide by the statement he made.

Mr. Runciman: There is not a sincere bone in his body.

Mr. Swart: The member for Leeds said there is not a sincere bone in his body. I might not go quite that far, but he is not too far off the mark.

There was no statement sent out to the insurance companies that the minister expected them to abide by the ruling he had made. In fact, on the contrary, within three days after he had made that statement, his ministry informed this insurance company, and I suppose any other insurance companies that asked, that it could go ahead as it planned to increase its rates. I say to the members, what sincerity.

When the minister answered my question in the House, when I asked him whether he had given the insurance companies this statement, he said, "They were informed that this was in fact the case." Then when he got outside the House, according to the newspapers, "Kwinter later told reporters he was unaware of the letter, adding that private insurers can raise rates if they want until the legislation is passed."

Again according to the newspapers the next day: "Kwinter said he assumed all insurance companies would comply with the freeze announced April 23. He said he will issue a directive telling insurance companies they cannot implement rate hikes until the law is passed." To another reporter he said that "his officials have 'made it loud and clear' to inquiring insurance companies that the legislation will cap their rates."

Mr. Mackenzie: He is good at lecturing the reporters.

Mr. Swart: Yes, and good at making all kinds of diverse statements. It has been the practice of this minister for the last year or year and a half to say one thing at one time and another thing at another time in this House.

If he had really been sincere, he would have done something real. What this bill will cause to take place will have practically no meaning whatsoever on insurance rates for the people of

this province. This is not a freeze on insurance rates even if the bill is put into law.

Let me say just what it does. Until the rate review board is in operation, if it ever is—and that is a good question—companies would be prohibited from increasing the rates that were in effect on April 23, 1987. But after the statement was made on April 23, we found out from the superintendent of insurance that in fact they would be permitted to have rate increases from the last time a person renewed up to April 23.

There is no investigation being done to see what those are, so if a person goes out and gets a renewal in May, after this rate cap—and the superintendent of insurance said those increases will probably be about two per cent per month—he would still have a 22 per cent increase in rates even if the insurance company lived up to the statement and lived up to the law. In June, it would be 20 per cent, and so on. It hardly slows the rate increase down, let alone put a real cap on it.

1640

Then this says, "There is an immediate 10 per cent reduction in the premium rates for all coverages for all male drivers under the age of 25, including the O-6 risks," and all insurance companies would have to apply an immediate reduction of 10 per cent.

But the catch is that on those young drivers as well, where there is supposed to be a 10 per cent reduction, that 22 per cent increase can take place in May, a 20 per cent increase can take place in June, an 18 per cent increase can take place in July, a 16 per cent increase can take place in August, and then they reduce the 10 per cent off that. So most of the young male drivers are going to have an increase in their insurance rates this year. Oh yes, they may get a few dollars in the mail for that rate being reduced after April 23, but when they come to renew their insurance, it will be the same kind of increase they have always experienced in the past, or almost the same.

The third thing is: "There is an immediate 10 per cent reduction in premium rates for all coverage for taxicabs insured through the Facility Association. In addition, any other insurer providing coverage to taxicabs is prohibited from charging more than the new, reduced Facility Association rates."

With the exception of those covered by the Facility Association, these people are exactly in the same position as those under 25. When they go out to renew their insurance, they will have all these increases that insurance companies wanted

to apply during the year added on before they get the 10 per cent reduction. Most of the taxicab companies will not get any reduction out of this at all.

Although the minister himself, in his April 23 statement, pointed out the actual facts of the case, the complexity of it and the way he knew the newspapers would report it caused everybody in this province to think they were getting their rates capped. That is what they thought. I tell the minister I have never seen people as angry as they have been over the increases in their insurance since April 23. In the letters and phone calls I am getting, people say, "The minister said they were capped." The minister must have known that would be the interpretation that would be put on it.

Of course, if we had had a spring election, as there was a possibility, it would have been a smart political move. Just to show the minister and this House how ineffective the capping is, I want to bring two or three or four or five cases to the attention of the House.

Mr. H., of 643 Coxwell Avenue, Toronto, called me to tell me he had heard that insurance rates were capped, but he had just received his notice for renewal, effective July, and it was up 12 per cent. He said: "I have a perfect driving record. I haven't had any accidents. I have the same car. But Mr. Kwinter said the rates were capped." I explained to him the true facts of the situation, and I want to say that he was, to put it mildly, slightly unhappy about it.

I have here a call I received from Mr. L. P., of 20 Edgecliff Golfway, out in Don Mills, who tells me his insurance went up from \$572 to \$656. He retired five years ago. He is 70 years of age. He said: "I cannot afford those kinds of increases. The minister said he had capped the rates." I explained to him too that it is a cap that is not a cap and suggested perhaps he should call the superintendent of insurance.

I have here another letter from a man and wife on Curzon Street in Toronto who wrote to their insurance company stating: "The premium on my car has gone from \$508 a year to \$597, an increase of 17.5 per cent." He said: "I read with some interest the enclosed Insurance Bureau of Canada pamphlet. I am somewhat familiar with these rationalizations. I have read them before. They do not convince me that I and my wife should pay a 17.5 per cent increase when we have never made a claim on this policy. I ask you to reconsider the increase, 17.5 per cent." That is just a start.

I have a case here of a Mr. G. H. of Toronto. He is a retired Toronto Transit Commission driver living on a pension. He has a perfectly clean driving record. He is with Scottish and York. They sent him a renewal that ups his premium from \$359 to \$556. That is a 55 per cent increase after the cap is on.

I had another telephone call from Hugh Hart of Centennial Drive in Brantford, whose rates for his motorcycle went up from \$430 to \$600. It was just two weeks ago he called me, long after the cap was put on. That is a 42.5 per cent increase. He has had no accidents. He has the same motorcycle. It is a 42.5 per cent increase in his rates.

Then I have a man here who told me when I talked to him personally: "Use my name. I do not care." It is Tudor Hoogakker of 195 Beech Avenue, Toronto, whose rate in 1985 was \$338; in 1986, \$508; in 1987, \$674. That increase is effective June 17 and the increase from 1986 to 1987 is 33 per cent. This is after the cap had been put on, effective immediately. He has never lost any points. He has never had any claims. That is the kind of increase the insurance companies give to him.

I have here another case from William James McCarther, 1303 Dufferin Street, Toronto. He is a senior who said I could certainly use his name. His rates went up from \$408 to \$619. He is a senior with no accidents, no claims and no lost points; after the cap is on, an increase of 52 per cent.

I want to say that the examples I am using are not selective examples. We picked them out of literally hundreds of letters and calls we have had about the ineffectiveness of the cap.

This one is Steve Hegyes of 24 Wellington Street, in my own constituency of Welland. He has never ever lost any points, driving for 32 years accident-free, and he has had an increase this year from \$300 to \$452, for over a 50 per cent increase.

1650

What I want to point out about the examples I have given here is that in fact none of those insurance companies has broken the law. They did not ignore what the Minister of Financial Institutions said back on April 23. Those are their normal increases for those categories. What meaning has a cap such as that to the motorists of this province?

We think there should be a real cap. If the minister had wanted to do something, instead of bringing in this milk-and-water legislation that he has, which is more to protect the insurance

companies than it is to protect the motorists, he would have put on caps that were real.

When this gets to committee, we are going to be moving for real caps on the insurance rates. We will move amendments to provide that the premium for renewals after April 23 will be no higher than the rate at last renewal. That is a real cap. That is a real freeze. We will be moving that the 10 per cent reduction for drivers under age 25 be calculated on the rate paid on the last renewal, not on some fictitiously increased rate at the present time. We will be moving that all taxi drivers be subject to the 10 per cent reduction, calculated on the same basis as the under-25 group; that is, on the basis of their last renewal, not some fictitious level at the present time.

The phoniness of the present legislation has to be pointed out. Here is a minister who says he is capping the legislation and yet there is nothing in the bill to stop an insurance company from refusing to renew. What kind of a cap is that? If they decide they do not want to renew, they do not renew. We will be moving an amendment that no insurer may refuse renewal to any insured whose driving record has not worsened.

We are not going to permit either that the little bit of pittance that will be repaid to some of these few drivers in a small amount can be applied against their insurance rate next year. We are going to move it actually be refunded to them, so they know what they are getting and get paid back their money that the insurance company for too long has been keeping.

I want to say, and I say it advisedly, that this bill and the other one which will come in are totally politically motivated. The motive behind this bill is not to help the driver. The motive behind it is that there is probably going to be an election within two or three months. We do not know, and I suppose the people on that side, except for one or two others, do not know, but that is a real likelihood. The minister wants somehow or other to defuse the auto insurance issue. He and the insurance companies have been taking some steps which they hope the public will buy.

I am quite surprised actually how blatant the insurance companies are in admitting this. I have here the May 11 newsletter of the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario. I want to read a bit because I think it is pertinent to this debate that we are having at the present time.

"On April 23, 1987, the Honourable Monte Kwinter, Minister of Financial Institutions, announced sweeping legislative proposals for the automobile insurance industry.

"The New Democratic Party gave signals as early as last summer that a government-run auto insurance scheme would be one of its main election planks. Increased premiums caused by increased losses, coupled with restrictive underwriting practices, played into the NDP's plans and, indeed, automobile insurance has been a hot political issue for the last six months....

"The industry too adopted some strategies to counteract the NDP attack. Brokers accepted commission caps on Facility Association business, and the companies agreed to relax their underwriting rules to accommodate greater numbers of drivers in the regular market. In fact, everything was working pretty well and many observers felt that the industry could withstand the NDP pressure."

Quite an admission, and I suppose we in the NDP should stand in this House and say: "Aha, look at what we have accomplished. We have forced them into it. After all, they admit it." The only thing I would add to that is, just give us the power to bring in our government-owned auto insurance plan and see what we do for the people of this province.

They go on to say:

"Then the roof caved in. Statistics Canada reported that the property/casualty industry, as a whole, recorded a \$1-billion profit in 1986 and that this profit was significantly greater than the profit that had been recorded for 1985."

I just digress here to say it sure was much greater. It was 30 per cent higher than they had ever made in their history before.

Let me go back to quoting: "Why, asked the NDP, should consumers pay higher auto insurance premiums in Ontario when insurance companies have made such a huge profit?" A pretty realistic question, really.

"The explanation of the Ontario automobile results, and the government's defence thereof, was beginning to fall on deaf ears. In response, the government"—the government in this House—"had to make a choice. Would it continue to support the private insurance system, or would it capitulate and nationalize the automobile insurance industry? It chose the former."

That is not the only indication of what the insurance companies are admitting we have been able to force them to do. In fact, they have been motivated politically to protect their friends here at Queen's Park.

Just three days ago, there was an article in the London Free Press that I want to quote a paragraph from because it refers to this motivation of the government here. It is headed "Car

Insurance Horror Stories Help Push Swart's Crusade." This is written by Gary May of the London Free Press, and those of us who know a bit about the London Free Press know it is not exactly a raving socialist newspaper; it is one of the most conservative in this province.

Gary May says this:

"Premier David Peterson, a staunch free-enterpriser, has tried to save private insurance by promising strict regulation of the rates and premium increases. But in April his consumer minister, Monte Kwinter, announced a stopgap freeze on rates, only to have the provincial superintendent of insurance reveal that all they were doing by capping the premiums was reducing the rate of increase most drivers face.

"This response to the public mood was ill-conceived and grew out of the fact that Peterson had not ruled out a summer election." How revealing. "It was trying to take a good issue away from the New Democratic Party. But by acting with apparently little planning, the government seemed heavy-handed to the industry and ineffectual in the eyes of consumers."

1700

Certainly from the travelling I have been doing around this province, and I have been doing a substantial amount of it, that is a very accurate description of the mood of the people of this province.

The polls showed last spring that the public viewed the performance of the Liberals, particularly the Minister of Financial Institutions, as wholly inept when it came to dealing with auto insurance. In fact, it rated bottom; only 26 per cent of the people of this province thought the Liberals were doing a passable job on the auto insurance industry. Of course, that is the reason, and the only reason, we got one bill and are getting another and why the minister made that statement back on April 23.

The politicking by the government and its political motives go much further than just bringing in these bills. It is the whole design and the timing of these bills. Now we have Bill 56. Seven weeks after the statement was made, we get a simple little bill, Bill 56, that implies three categories of drivers are going to have their insurance rates capped. We know that is not the case—they are not really going to be capped—but at least that was the intent.

If it gets passed before we recess for the summer, it will put a few dollars in the pockets of a few people. Almost every editorial in every paper now reports that the public has seen through the statement and through the hollow-

ness of this bill. Then we are going to get a rate review bill later.

An hon. member: Why are we debating without the minister?

Mr. Swart: It is a good question why are we debating without the minister. I guess the minister has always been indifferent about the plight of the motorists with regard to insurance. I guess the fact he has not been here today since the first five minutes after I started to speak is an indication of his lack of concern.

An hon. member: Why do we not adjourn until he gets here? This is ridiculous. No parliamentary assistant; no quorum; no minister. What the hell is going on?

Mr. Speaker: I might remind the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) that interjections are out of order, particularly for members not in their own seats. Does the member for Welland-Thorold wish to continue?

Mr. Swart: I look around and I do not see a quorum, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1705

Mr. Speaker: Does the member for Welland-Thorold wish to continue?

Mr. Swart: Yes, I do, now we have a quorum present. I would just like to say that I do not think this debate should really continue unless the minister or his parliamentary assistant is going to be here. This issue is as important to the people of this province as anything we debate in this House. When we have a budget debate, the minister is here for that. Why should he not be here and intend to be here full-time when we are debating this issue?

I was talking about the scenario of the politics in the bills, the fact that we get Bill 56 and debate it seven weeks after the statement has been made by the minister; the fact that we do not yet even have the rate review bill seven weeks after that statement. Of course, this is all intentional. The minister does not want to have a review board operative before the next election comes around. He knows very well what will happen when the rate review board sits down to determine what the rates are going to be: It is going to increase them.

The minister read in the paper the other day, I believe it was on June 4, that the insurance companies profess to have lost \$330 million in Ontario in 1986; his review board, by his own statement, is going to let the insurance companies make a profit; from past history, he has taken them at their word. He knows very well the

companies are then going to apply increases so that the so-called deficit is no longer there.

The minister also knows that if he brings in the next bill, the one that is going to establish the rate review board and theoretically give it some kind of instructions to do away with discrimination against young people, particularly young males; to do away with discrimination where there are a number of drivers in the house, one is a bad driver and all the others are penalized; to do away with discrimination of excessively high rates for new drivers of any age and for new car owners—incidentally, if a car owner does not get insurance for one year, if he sells the car and is without it for one year, he is considered a new car owner and has to pay 40 per cent more for his insurance—and because he is perpetuating the present costly system, the minister knows those costs are going to be tacked on to the insurance rates of everybody, including the good drivers.

He knows the insurance companies will be saying they have great additional increases in expenses this year. I say that when that rate review board hands down its rulings, the rates in this province will go up between 15 per cent and 20 per cent. The minister knows it. That is why we do not have that bill here. He does not want the rate review board in operation.

If he had been really concerned about the discrimination being experienced by these groups—and the minister has talked about this; he has expressed concern—he could have used section 371. He could have enacted that section and immediately eliminated discrimination. But he decided against using that procedure and instead will likely bring in a bill, as he said today, in the next few days. As he said in the introduction of this bill—I believe “very soon” were his exact words; I want to quote him accurately—very soon, he will bring in this other bill, but not soon enough that it is going to be operative before the next election is called. That is deliberate.

1710

Of course, it may never become law at all. As the member for Mississauga East indicated, if they get the nice majority over there that they think they are going to get, the bill will probably never be resurrected. It will die.

The minister knows how absurd his whole plan is. In fact, he fought against it for almost two years in this House when we were proposing to cap rates. We were proposing all kinds of things that he is now implementing to eliminate the discrimination. He could not do it. It was going to take three years to eliminate discrimination for

the young drivers. That is what he said in the House. Now, all of a sudden, he has done a complete reversal on all those things he was opposed to.

Lorrie Goldstein at Queen's Park, who is usually as supportive as he can be—although I have to say on some occasions he is quite objective—of the extreme right wing, which is certainly applied to our minister here, made these comments back on May 7, 1987. It is rather interesting that the Insurance Bureau of Ontario, the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario and, for that matter, the Insurance Bureau of Canada are circulating one of Mr. Goldstein's earlier articles to try to discredit the New Democratic Party, but I would like to read from one of his later articles.

This is what he said: "Onward and upward. New Democrat MPP Mel Swart argued—and what scares me is I am beginning to believe him—that a state-run system would be better than the ham-handed way the government has lurched into the auto insurance industry while failing to do the one thing motorists want—lower rates.

"He said Kwinter is about to create a nightmarish bureaucracy." He says that is a mouthful for the NDP, but I repeat that here today. It will be a nightmarish bureaucracy, if the government is going to thoroughly investigate 200 insurance companies to see what they do with their premiums, whether they put enough or too much into their reserves, whether they are taking money from general insurance for auto insurance. It will be a nightmarish bureaucracy such as we have never seen in this government before.

He said it "won't be able to do its job unless it hires more civil servants than it would take to establish a government-run system." Absolutely right. "Meanwhile, Jack Lyndon, president of the Insurance Bureau of Canada, said he's given up trying to figure out Kwinter's logic and dismissed yesterday's announcement as the latest eruption of Kwinter's already-fevered brain. 'What the hell am I hearing,' he said, when informed of Kwinter's plan to give the rate review board power over premiums other than auto insurance premiums."

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to make two points. I would like to know who is responsible in the House for carrying the bill.

The Acting Speaker: I understand the minister is here.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On the point of order, I want to make something very clear. If the

minister expects us to continue with the business in this House, he or his parliamentary assistant had better be in the House and paying attention to the debate or we will not continue with discussion of this bill.

Number two, I would like to know whether—

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: For the information of the member, I have been in the House during the total debate. I do not have to look at the member to hear him. I can hear him. He speaks very loudly.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I may not have been in my seat, but I have been here listening to him. I just want that on the record.

Mr. Swart: It seems to be that again, on this important subject, there is not a quorum.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1718

Mr. Swart: I would just like to reiterate at this time that this issue of auto insurance—and I am surprised the members of this House do not realize it—is a major issue to the people out there. For members to be so indifferent that we have to keep calling for a quorum on this shows a lack of knowledge of what is really taking place out there in the towns, cities and countryside of this nation and of the way the people feel.

I was talking before about the political motivation of the bills we had and I just want to remind the House that this bill self-destructs at the end of the year. The scenario we have now is that we may or may not get a bill through that will put a meaningless cap on rates, but that I suppose may—the minister certainly hopes—bring the minister some political kudos for introducing it.

We have a rate review bill to be introduced at some time before we recess, which of course will never become operative before the next election and therefore will have no meaning except for political posturing. Then this bill will self-destruct at the end of the year. It only lasts for this year. If the government gets a nice majority in the coming election, the stage is set for not a single permanent change for the people of this province in the auto insurance system.

That is a deliberate intent on the part of the government that it will keep that option open. It is all a sham and the public knows it. I have already stated, but I want to repeat to the minister, that I have never seen the public angrier than it is at the present time.

1720

I know the Liberal members are getting calls too—they may not want to admit it, but I know they are—to tell them how angry people are that after a cap has been announced, they are getting these tremendous increases. They have a right to be angry, because this government and the insurance companies are playing around with \$3 billion of their premiums. This public that is angry is not just the motorists. It is the truckers, it is the bus operators, it is the taxi operators and the car dealers.

Just last week I met with a group of car dealers who had asked to meet with me when I was in the area because their sales to young people are dropping off. They tell me they have young people who will come in, look at the cars, decide they can afford to buy a car, make a tentative deal, then go out and try to get insurance, cannot afford the insurance and so cancel the deal on the car. That is true in standard cars, but it is even more true in the sports models, and so they are hurting from this as well.

The most disgraceful thing that is being done, I think, is being done by the proponents of the private insurance system in this province. I think perhaps the worst one I have known that has been perpetrated was by D. D. McKay, the general manager of the Facility Association—a person, I suppose, to be considered one of the top individuals, one of the top executives in the whole insurance industry in this province.

When the Ontario Motor Coach Association appeared before our committee to tell us about the horrendous increases in rates and the injustices its members were experiencing at the hands of the insurance companies and told us it wanted a public insurance plan similar to the ones in the three western provinces, Mr. McKay took it upon himself to write a three-page letter to Brian Crow, who is the president of the Ontario Motor Coach Association.

Obviously, I will not read all of his letter, but I want to read the pertinent part, in which he told Mr. Crow that of course they were all wrong on the advantages of the public systems in those western provinces, that he should not even give consideration to it, and then he concluded his letter by saying: "I was interested in the quote that was attributed to you"—the quote attributed to Brian Crow—"We are told by the people out there (in BC) that that system doesn't lose money. So if it is no drain on taxpayers' money, why shouldn't we have the same system in Ontario?" That is what Mr. Crow had said.

Then Mr. McKay goes on to say this: "I am not sure what people told you that the system doesn't

lose money, but starting in 1985 the following figures will indicate the loss suffered by the Insurance Corp. of British Columbia (Auto-plan)." This is what he says in the letter: "1985—loss \$84,823,000; 1984—loss \$118,468,000; 1983—loss \$97,505,000; 1982—loss \$108,891,265; 1981—loss \$101,937,769."

A letter signed by Mr. McKay, one of the top insurance people in this province. Incidentally, he sent a copy to Mr. Weir, the superintendent of insurance, to J. B. Nixon in the Ministry of Financial Institutions and to J. Lyndon, the president of the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

Obviously, when Brian Crow got this letter, he was quite perturbed. He contacted me and he contacted Mr. Bucklaschuk. He contacted the Insurance Corp. of British Columbia and he got the true facts. They are written in his letter and the true facts were: In 1985, the Insurance Corp. of British Columbia made \$73,562,000 profit; in 1984, it made \$9,564,000 in profit; in 1983, \$5,611,000 in profit; in 1982, \$3,200,000 in profit; in 1981, \$616,000 in profit; for a total of \$92 million profit in those five years.

That is the audited statement of the ICBC, compared to what Mr. McKay said of a loss in those five years of \$511 million. Even though the copy was sent to the superintendent of insurance and to those other groups, the Insurance Bureau of Canada and the rest, none of them took the trouble to correct Mr. McKay and tell him that perhaps he was misleading the people of this province and, in particular, the Ontario Motor Coach Association.

Those are the kinds of distortions that are being mouthed over and over across this province. It is only slightly worse than the misrepresentation of the minister on Manitoba's position. He has stated over and over again that Manitoba lost \$10 million last year and that had to be made up by the taxpayers, and that had it been in Ontario they would have had to make up \$100 million. The minister has stated that over and over. He knows that is not true. He knows they had a surplus of \$71 million in the rate reserve before the last year. He also knows they had a \$17-million loss; not \$10 million.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: What did they lose last year?

Mr. Swart: They lost \$17 million, but the taxpayers did not make it up. The minister said the taxpayers made it up and that is nothing less than distortion because they did not make up a cent of it. It was taken out of the rate reserves, and they still have rate reserves of \$54 million in Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Does the member know what a rate reserve is?

Mr. Swart: Of course, I know what a rate reserve is. The minister does not even know they have one.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Swart: The Insurance Bureau of Canada quotes the minister on this sort of thing. They also quote him again in the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario. They made this comment and it is so true. It says: "To a great degree, both the Liberals and the Conservatives have been defenders of the industry. They often cited that, for every dollar the companies collected in premium, \$1.31 was paid out in claim costs." The minister also knows that \$1.31 was not paid out in claims.

The minister also knows that includes claims costs which are part of their expenses but they never show it that way. They want the people to believe that somehow or other they are losing a lot of money on this. They do not want the public to know what it is costing them to adjust their claims; so these distortions are spread about the public plans in the west and the distortions about the insurance companies here.

1730

This bill does nothing real to address the rates in this province and neither will the next one that I suppose will be brought in during the next few days. I say to the minister, his system is simply out of control. The rates in Quebec have not gone up as they have here. The minister must know that. The rates in the western provinces have not increased as they have here. As to the rates in the past five years in Ontario, the average motorist is paying 65 per cent more than he was five years ago. In Manitoba, they are paying 12.5 per cent more. That is one fifth of the increase we have had here. In British Columbia, it is 12 per cent more than it was five years ago. In Saskatchewan, it is even down four per cent. The minister knows the rates in this province are at least one third higher than they are in Vancouver, Winnipeg or Regina.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: —even before they got into the business. If you knew anything about it, you would make some sense.

Mr. Swart: I say to the minister that now again he is repeating what the insurance companies say. I have challenged the insurance companies to bring me the figures and they have not done it. Now I challenge the minister to do it. I challenge the minister to bring the figures for 20

or 30 years ago to show it. He is repeating what the insurance companies are saying.

Mr. Laughren: He will not even debate you, Mel.

Mr. Swart: He will not even debate me. Why does he not debate me out on the hustings? People would love to hear him and me debate. If he is as right as he thinks he is, he could win hands down. Boy, there is an opportunity for him, but somehow or other he does not take it up; it is because he cannot back up statements such as he just made. He should table the figures, independent figures on how much lower they were out there 20 years ago. He cannot do it and neither can the insurance companies.

We pointed out that in 1986 the average rate paid in Ontario was \$605 and that it was \$395 in British Columbia, \$324 in Manitoba and \$228 in Saskatchewan. The surprising thing to me was that the president of the Insurance Bureau of Canada on two occasions publicly stated that he could not argue with those figures, that they seemed about right to him. That is the contrast the people in this province could have in their insurance rates if we had the kind of system they have out there.

The minister refuses even to investigate. The minister will not appoint an independent body to investigate the auto insurance systems in those western provinces compared to the system here. This House knows that back on December 4, there was a resolution passed in this House. I am going to quote only the operative part of it. It says "the government of Ontario should appoint immediately a respected firm of financial and accounting consultants (like Woods Gordon, who did the previous study in 1978) to make a comprehensive study and comparison of the rates and policies of the western public plans with those of Ontario so that the public of this province know the true facts concerning a major auto insurance alternative which could be made available to the people of this province."

That does not seem to be a terribly unreasonable request, yet the minister has refused to do it even though this was passed by the House. He has refused to carry out that investigation.

Even the London Free Press in an article on Saturday, June 13, made this comment, "There is clearly a sufficient level of public interest to justify an unbiased and independent comparison of the public and private auto insurance systems in Canada." Yet the minister refuses to do that independent investigation. Again, the reason he does not is perfectly obvious. It is a political decision. The minister knows very well that if an

independent investigation were made, if Woods Gordon did that investigation and brought the report it made in 1978 up to date, it would show those plans so superior to what we have in this province that there would be a hue and cry that would be so overwhelming the minister would have to bring it in.

That is why we do not get the investigation. That is why the minister will not do an independent comparison. He has stated, and his Premier (Mr. Peterson) has stated, over and over again, "If it can be proved to us that a public plan is better, we will certainly give consideration to implementing it." Who do they expect to prove it? If those kinds of statements are sincere, by God, you go out and find out, do you not? But the minister refuses; he refuses to find out. The minister can go over to England, Switzerland, France or Germany to investigate the insurance plans there, and do it at public expense, but he will not go to Manitoba, Saskatchewan or British Columbia to investigate them here. If anything shows bias and indifference to really finding out about an alternative, that certainly has to prove it.

Mr. Hayes: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: There are not enough members for a quorum here to proceed with this debate.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1738

Mr. Swart: The Minister of Financial Institutions is playing the insurance companies' game, and he is playing it very well for them. He simply does not want to do the investigation. He wants the misrepresentations of the insurance companies, the Conservatives and himself to continue and not be refuted by some independent investigation that might show how beneficial those western plans are.

I have to say I was a bit surprised today when I heard the member for Mississauga East make a statement about subsidization of the public insurance plan. I guess he has fallen prey to the misrepresentations of the insurance industry or perhaps wants to believe it; I do not know. Generally speaking, we have found that the Conservatives have been more straight out on this than those over there. They took the position, "Whatever else happens, we will keep private enterprise doing it." They have not made these rather silly moves that are not going to help the motorists of this province but that will keep the private insurance industry in power and, the minister hopes, give the Liberals the opportunity to return as a government.

I wish the member for Mississauga East were here. I would like to remind him that not a cent of

public funds has gone into the auto insurance system of Manitoba; not a cent. What they tried to misinterpret was when Manitoba put on a two-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax as part of a premium levy. It was not taken out of public funds; it was not taken out of the general revenue; it was a special levy to go directly to the insurance company. Of course, with the private insurance companies here, if you travel farther, you pay more. They thought maybe that was a good idea out there and a good way of collecting it. Apart from that, not a penny has gone in. When the minister gets up and says there is some loss of \$34 million or \$44 million or \$50 million, he knows very well it has nothing to do with auto insurance in Manitoba.

1740

In Saskatchewan, not a penny of the public treasury has gone into the auto insurance system. In all their advertisements, the insurance companies and the Insurance Bureau of Canada say that \$72 million has gone into the insurance system in Saskatchewan. Yes, \$72 million did go into the insurance system but not into the auto insurance system; not a penny of it. It is a separate one. It went into a general insurance system. They had storms and all kinds of other problems out there and the general insurance industry was in trouble. They wanted to funnel money to it to pay the people of the province who had these catastrophes, so they did that.

In this province, we had farmers in the tobacco area—the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) would know this—and we paid \$30 million of public funds to the tobacco farmers because of the catastrophe they had. None of us objected to that. But a government of Saskatchewan funnelled money into the general insurance system to pay for those kinds of things and it is classed as a \$72-million subsidy to the auto insurance system.

I must say that even in British Columbia, \$181 million went into the auto insurance system, but there were some pretty special circumstances with regard to that and none has gone in since. The circumstances were that they also put out a gasoline tax. When Social Credit came to power, it refused to turn it over to the government so there was a general subsidy to pay.

It is also true, and I am being very frank and honest, that when the New Democratic Party took power there and introduced the plan, it did not set the rates high enough. Part of the reason was the fact that the insurance companies would not give them the records. They did in the other

two provinces, but there they refused to give them the records.

Not only that; Social Credit had said: "We will sell off this insurance. Just elect us and we will sell this off." They got elected but they did not sell it off, I can tell the members that. They put in \$181 million to sweeten the pot so it would be sold off more profitably to help out their friends, but the Insurance Corp. of British Columbia now is as profitable an insurance company as any in Canada. Last year, the interest on its investments was such that it could reduce rates by 23 per cent below what they would have been if it did not have that interest on its investments.

Then we hear this talk that there is such a greater density of traffic out there in the western provinces. The insurance companies had this on TV several months ago; it may even have been last year. The minister used that in the House, about the density of traffic out there: "You could not expect rates to be as cheap here as they are there." Of course, the statistics show the number of accidents, which is what causes claims—it is not density of traffic; it is the number of accidents—is higher per 100 cars there than it is here.

In fact, in the past five years, the number of accidents per 100 cars annually in Ontario has been 3.5 per cent; in Manitoba it has been five per cent; in Saskatchewan, it has been 5.3 per cent; in British Columbia it has been 5.5 per cent. There have been 40 per cent more accidents per 100 cars in those western provinces. Their rates, of course, should be higher than they are here.

I want to conclude by saying that—

Interjections.

Mr. Swart: There are a few other things I want to say.

This bill and the one that is going to come are distasteful to us, because we know there is an alternative that will eliminate the injustices and lower rates. For 41 years in Saskatchewan, 17 years in Manitoba and 15 years in British Columbia, young people have not paid any more than older people. There was no discrimination because of marital status. Nobody paid any extra out there because his wife or her husband happened to have a bad record. Everybody pays the same, if one has a good driving record. Penalty rates are applied only to the bad drivers, and only to that person, not to anybody else.

Our party insisted on putting into practice that kind of system in the west and we insist that we have that kind of system here. Our justice system in this province is based on the premise that one is innocent until proved guilty. We insist that be the

basis of our insurance system here too. Young people, members of the family, marital status, new driver, new car owner: That should not have any bearing on the insurance rates one pays. If one has a driver's licence and it is not proved that one is a bad driver, then one should be paying the minimum rate. This bill does not provide it. It is doubtful the next one will. I want to say that we in this party will not settle for anything less.

Insurance companies in this province have more to say about who drives on the roads than the law does. They are the ones who cancel the insurance so a person cannot drive or afford the insurance. That is a horrendous negation of democracy. This bill does nothing to rectify that situation. We will settle for nothing less on this issue. We believe that everyone who drives on the road should have insurance.

In spite of what the minister may say, 200,000 people drive on the roads of this province without insurance. It was the minister's government that submitted the information to the survey that was done two years ago or a year and a half ago on the numbers driving without insurance in North America. They estimated there were 175,000 driving then. Since I have been involved in this insurance issue, I am having people call me to tell me they are driving without insurance for the very first time. When a person admits that, there are a lot of them out there.

With a system such as they have in Manitoba, when you have to get your licence, you have to get insurance with your licence so everybody has insurance. Nobody is driving without insurance in those provinces. Surely that makes a lot of sense. I was on a debate with Mr. Kelleher of the Insurance Bureau of Canada a while ago—some people will debate with me—and he said there are 6,800 driving without insurance in Manitoba.

I must say that set me back a little bit. I had never heard that. I called Manitoba to find out about it and do the members know what it was? There were 6,800 people there whose cheques had bounced and therefore they did not have insurance and did not have licences. Within a week's time, the licence plates were off 90 per cent of the cars. There were not 6,800 people driving there without insurance at all. That is the kind of distortion we get on these things. We say that everybody should have insurance in this province and we will settle for nothing less.

Finally, we believe that when the law says, as it does in this province, that everyone must have insurance, the government has an obligation to provide it at the lowest possible rate. Instead, the minister supports a system that collects between

\$500 million and \$750 million more from the people of this province than they would pay under the public alternative for equal or better insurance. I say that we will settle for nothing less than the system that resolved these injustices and excessive rates, which is the driver-owned public system they have in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

1750

Mr. Breagh: I have been in committee all afternoon and I have not had a chance to listen to the member for Welland-Thorold. I wonder if he would mind repeating his speech so I could benefit from his wisdom.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that you just grant that. Do not call for a vote.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Haggerty: The member for Welland-Thorold talked about the insurance in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and he talked about the cost there. Is that the basic cost? Does it include the comprehensive? Does it include sickness and accident insurance? Does it include collision?

Mr. Swart: Yes, it does.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I know the member is very anxious to speak. Are there any other comments or questions?

Mr. Polsinelli: In the few minutes the member for Welland-Thorold has to reply, I would like him also to address the issue of accident frequency rates and how they compare with the Ontario experience.

Mr. Swart: I will be glad to answer those two questions. First, perhaps I was speaking too quietly and the member did not hear me, because I covered the question from the member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli).

The frequency of accidents is substantially greater in the west. The Department of Transport reports that in the last five years the accident frequency rate in Ontario has been annually 3.5 cars per 100; in Manitoba, five cars per 100; in Saskatchewan, 5.3 per 100; and in British Columbia it is 5.5.

They are quite dramatically reducing their accident rates; you can attribute it to anything you like. But at least in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where accidents mostly happen in the wintertime, their long winters are probably the reason that the accident rate is much higher in the western provinces.

With regard to the question raised by the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty), yes, that includes all the insurance they carry. Quite

frankly, we cannot compare exactly. We have done this between cars and have compared exactly. When we compare the average rate for everybody, it is true the coverages may not be identical. Generally speaking, in a place such as Manitoba, collision is part of the no-fault, so everybody has collision on his car in Manitoba.

Mr. Haggerty: At extra cost.

Mr. Swart: No, that is at no extra cost; that is included in the rate. Also included in that rate is the driver's insurance fee. In those provinces you will pay \$15 or \$20 for insurance when you get your driver's licence. Of course, if you have an accident, that fee increases, but those rates include that fee.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this issue. It is a vitally important one. I want to commend my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold, first, for the address he has given us today and, more important, for the work he has done on this issue over the last year. He has done an absolutely tremendous job on behalf of the consumers of this province who are facing rates which are an absolute ripoff throughout this province.

He chaired a committee of our party which held hearings throughout the province; I think it was started nearly a year ago and went on for several months. It produced a very detailed report of the problems that were being faced by consumers in Ontario with regard to not only their auto insurance but also other areas of insurance coverage.

In terms of the focus of public concern, the high auto insurance rates were the major area of most vociferous outrage. This has continued to this point, and we finally have an issue on which I think we are going to see some action, not by this government but by the next government, because of the intensity of feeling in this issue.

I have had the opportunity to communicate with many of the residents of my riding of Sault Ste. Marie, and the residents are very outspoken on this issue. I have brought into the Legislature today just some of the communications I have had from my most recent mailing, in which we focused some of our questions on concerns about the auto insurance issue and, in particular, offered residents the opportunity to write back to me with some of their concerns and to state their opinions about whether we should in fact be instituting a driver-owned auto insurance plan in this province.

The greatest number of responses I had ever received previously to any constituency questionnaire was approximately 850. To this latest

questionnaire, we have received, to date, more than 2,300 responses. Out of that 2,300, nearly 2,000 of them were signed responses, and of those, more than 1,500 asked that we send them more information on the auto insurance issue.

I have stacks and stacks of concerned individuals in my riding, and my understanding is that this has been the case in ridings across the province. Certainly members of our party have been asking individuals to write with their concerns about their own auto insurance plans, the rates they are being charged and what they think of our initiative in terms of adopting the plan that has been adopted in the western provinces to initiate a public system of auto insurance, one that has worked very successfully.

Three western provinces which have had the good fortune to have had government under a New Democratic Party leadership have in all three cases—in the case of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia—instituted driver-owned, publicly run auto insurance plans. Those plans have proven again and again to have rates that are much lower than they are here in Ontario. We have cases of individuals who have left Ontario and gone out to those provinces, and, with the identical coverage and the same vehicle, they have found that their rates are much lower in those provinces than they were back here.

Of course, those are the happy cases. The sad cases are the ones we hear of people who have moved back into Ontario from any of the western provinces and have found that their rates have gone up anywhere from 25 per cent up to 300 or 400 per cent higher than they were in those provinces.

The responses include a number of comments concerning these plans. I might read out a few as an example of what individuals are saying about the need for public auto insurance.

Mrs. Gioventu says, "I hope something can be done about the auto insurance within the next year." I would certainly hope that there will be as well, but unless we get a change of heart from the current government, I think we may have to wait, at least for the next election.

From Mr. Jubinville: "I think that the topic of my largest concern, and probably many others, is that of auto insurance premiums. If it is true that other provinces which have government in control of the premiums have lower rates, what are you waiting for?"

Another letter from a doctor living on Drake Street in the Sault: "The most important problems facing Ontario are: number one, auto

insurance; number two, indexing of private pension funds."

A letter from the Jobst family in Sault Ste. Marie: "I truly hope the NDP will fight for lower insurance premiums and a driver-owned insurance plan. The big companies have made enough profits at the expense of drivers. If it works in other provinces, why can't it work for Ontario? Keep up the good work."

1800

Another one is from a Mr. Gill: "I wish you and your party would push harder for driver-owned car insurance. We are getting raped by these insurance companies. I have talked to many people on this, and they are all in favour of driver-owned insurance."

The comments just go on and on. From a Mr. Elliott, who runs a garage in the community: "Auto and liability insurance rates are to the point that insurance may be the straw that broke the camel's back for many small businesses."

I believe we are approaching six o'clock, Mr. Speaker. May I move that we adjourn the debate?

On motion by Mr. Morin-Strom, the debate was adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to inform the members, and you may all be aware of the reason, that the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) will not be available to debate the response he was dissatisfied with. However, pursuant to standing order 30, the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made, and I will call on the member for Carleton for up to five minutes.

APPORTIONMENT OF EDUCATION TAXES

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, who is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway)?

Mr. Speaker: The member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft).

Mr. Mitchell: The rules specifically state that the minister or his parliamentary assistant will debate the issue with me, and I feel it is showing the contempt of the minister for the particular issue I have concern about.

Mr. Speaker: The member may put his comments.

Mr. Mitchell: Then I shall speak.

Mr. Speaker: If you wish.

Mr. Mitchell: I emphatically state that this shows the typical contempt that the minister has for this House in that he is not here, nor is his

parliamentary assistant, to debate something for which there was more than adequate notice.

The issue I am taking exception to with the minister is the Nepean educational apportionment. I have asked the minister questions in this House repeatedly, and on many occasions he tries to be very flip about his answers by pitting myself against another member of my particular caucus. I want to assure him that his method is not going to succeed, because we are in fact united in this particular situation.

The problem in Nepean goes back to 1972, when Nepean first appealed. All that time since then, the process has been allowed to be followed, but in this instance the minister did something that was totally contrary to the Education Act and in fact totally contrary to due process.

We know that when an Ontario Municipal Board hearing is held, if there are unsatisfied groups, organizations or persons, the normal process is that there is an avenue of appeal through to the cabinet. If that process had been followed, I do not think anyone would have really been upset. In this case, it never ever got to cabinet. Rather, the minister went to the chairman of the OMB, who, I find it very difficult to say, bowed to that sort of request. That is not like the OMB, and I think the chairman of the OMB should be answering me as to why he responded in that kind of fashion.

The Minister of Education is refusing to deal with a very contentious issue in my municipality. I have asked him when he will amend the legislation. Today, he sent me a report to him by the Deputy Minister of Education. I thank him for sending that to me; however, what is being suggested in the material he sent is that Nepean should go to the Divisional Court. I suggest there is a far simpler way this can be dealt with; it can be dealt with by the Minister of Education doing

what is his job, instead of going beyond what is his job and interfering in this due process.

I have asked him to provide for me and for my municipality a list of all the municipalities in Ontario that are similarly affected. He said he would, but I have not seen it as yet. The fact that this minister interfered with due process in the situation in Nepean but did not do so in Onondaga, where they had a similar appeal, shows that what was bothering him more was not the equality he talks about but who the member was in that particular area. He did not interfere in the area that is represented by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), but he conveniently interfered in the riding of Carleton and the city of Nepean.

There are two things this minister must provide to me, as a member, and must in fact do for the municipality of Nepean. One is to stop showing his contempt for the House as he has done today, but begin to provide the material and information that has been requested and begin to show this House that he is concerned, using his words, about equality in this province and amend the legislation.

Why should a municipality be faced with a costly process of going through the courts, when he has available to him the process to allow the legislation to be amended? He created the problem. He forced the Ontario Municipal Board hearing, which has now frozen any future appeals by the city of Nepean. He is again going way outside his area of responsibility in that he did something that has never been done by any former Minister of Education. I want him to answer this member in this House for satisfaction in this matter.

Ms. E. J. Smith: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I put on the record that I believe this was originally to be dealt with last week. The Minister of Education was here and would have answered at that time.

The House adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

CONTENTS

Tuesday, June 16, 1987

Members' statements

Sewage treatment, Mr. J. M. Johnson	1399
Automobile insurance, Mr. Warner	1399
Transit services, Ms. Caplan	1399
Market value assessment, Mr. McFadden	1400
Gasoline prices, Mr. Swart	1400
Safety standards, Mr. Henderson	1400
Halton Centennial Manor, Mr. Jackson	1401

Statement by the ministry

Stabilization payments, Hon. Mr. Riddell	1401
---	------

Responses

Stabilization payments, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Hayes	1401
---	------

Oral questions

Constitutional accord, Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1403
Assistance for the disabled, Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1404
Employment equity, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1405
Rental accommodation, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Curling, Mr. Reville	1406
IDEA Corp., Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1407
Assistance for the disabled, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1408
Boundary negotiations, Mr. Brandt, Hon. Mr. Grandmaître	1409
Child care, Ms. Gigantes, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1409
Conflict-of-interest guidelines, Mr. Harris, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1410
Market value assessment, Mr. McClellan, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1410
Workers' compensation, Mr. Gordon, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1411
Ontario Lottery Corp., Mr. Laughren, Hon. Mr. Eakins	1411
Fishing licence revenues, Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1412

Petitions

Strikebreaking, Mr. D. S. Cooke, tabled	1413
Forest fire, Mr. Pierce, tabled	1413

First readings

Trespass to Property Amendment Act, Bill 86, Mr. Henderson, agreed to	1413
Township of Chapleau Act, Bill Pr19, Mr. Laughren, agreed to	1414

Second readings

Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Amendment Act, Bill 81, Hon. Mr. Keyes, Mr. Partington, Ms. Bryden, Mr. Sterling, Mr. McClellan, agreed to	1414
Automobile Insurance Act, Bill 56, Hon. Mr. Kwinter, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Swart, Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Polsinelli, Mr. Morin-Strom, adjourned	1421

Adjournment debate

Apportionment of education taxes, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. E. J. Smith	1438
--	------

Other business

Stanley Payne, Hon. Mr. Curling	1401
Agencies, boards and commissions, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1414
Poll, Hon. Mr. Nixon, tabled	1414
Notices of dissatisfaction, Mr. Speaker	1414
Adjournment	1439

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Caplan, E. (Oriole L)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)
Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)
Gregory, M. E. C. (Mississauga East PC)
Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
Henderson, D. J. (Humber L)
Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)
Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Minister of Financial Institutions (Wilson Heights L)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)
Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)
Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)
Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines (London Centre L)
Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)
Polsinelli, C. (Yorkview L)
Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming L)
Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)
Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)
Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
Smith, D. W. (Lambton L)
Smith, E. J. (London South L)
Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)
Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)



Ontario

No. 29

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Third Session, 33rd Parliament

Wednesday, June 17, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, June 17, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATION

Mr. Rowe: I want to take this opportunity to express my grave concern over the failure of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) to respond to the needs of municipal recreation departments across this province. He has in fact completely ignored virtually all the critical issues they have raised with him on many occasions since his appointment as the minister of this important portfolio almost two years ago.

For example, the minister has failed to respond to their calls for a review of regulation 517. He has failed to amend to provide any funding for them under the Community Recreation Centres Act. He has failed to respond to their concerns about the cost and erosion of the tax-based funding. He has failed to take any steps to put an end to their growing dependency on lottery funds. Worse still, he has threatened to withdraw this lottery funding under Bill 38, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act. He has failed to respond to their very real concerns about the six-week turnaround time for applications under his capital grants program, and he has failed to honour his commitment to permit parks and recreation officials to review the capital strategic plan.

In short, the minister has failed to live up to his obligations to Ontario's parks and recreation officials. I want to take this opportunity to urge the minister to hold a series of in-depth discussions with parks and recreation officials in all Ontario municipalities over the summer months. The sound counsel and advice we will obtain through such a consultative process will enable all members of the House to help the minister clean up the mess at the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

MARKET VALUE ASSESSMENT

Mr. McClellan: For the past two years the Liberal government and our Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) have been encouraging the imposition of a market value assessment scheme on Metropoli-

tan Toronto. I want to speak about the impact that such a market value assessment scheme would have on my own community of ward 3 in west Toronto, which is a blue-collar neighbourhood with the second-lowest average family income in all of Metro.

We have had two impact studies: the first based on 1980 market values, and the most recent based on 1984 market values. The 1980 market value study for ward 3 shows that 1,584 home owners would have a property tax increase if market value were in place. The most recent study, based on 1984 market values, shows that the number of houses facing a property tax increase if 1984 market values were in place has tripled to 3,657.

As members know, the Liberal scheme is based on a readjustment of the market value base every three years. It is clear from the comparison of these two studies, taken before the latest price spiral of 91 per cent over the last two years, that a market value assessment scheme introduced into the skyrocketing Metro housing market will create an ever-increasing spiral of property tax increases for more and more and more home owners.

I call again on the Treasurer to honour the commitment he made to this House on June 5, 1986, not to unilaterally impose such a scheme or permit it to be imposed on any individual municipality.

ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I wish to raise a subject that should have been raised here last week but regrettably was not. Last week was national Organ Donor Awareness Week. I believe this subject is too important to let pass. Although beyond most of our imaginations, medicine has enabled us to save and improve lives through donation of our organs. From death, each and every one of us has the capacity to give life, no matter our age.

A few weeks ago an eight-month-old London baby boy, Jason Dick, died while awaiting a liver transplant. This need not have occurred. Perhaps many of us feel that we tempt fate by signing organ donor cards or that respect for the dead precludes violating the sanctity of a body. When

I hear of the Jason Dicks, I say these taboos must go. We all know the Monty Python wail, "I'm not dead yet," but the commitment to donate organs has to be made while alive.

One person, in death, has the potential to benefit 10 of the living by donating a liver, kidney, cornea, lung, pancreas, etc. At any time, 2,500 people await kidney transplants, yet only 325 became available last year. We must raise this awareness, so I invite all members to join me in signing their organ donor cards.

CHILD CARE

Mr. Partington: On June 4, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) announced increased subsidies for nonprofit day care in Ontario. By neglecting to provide support for private centres, this government initiative discriminates against them. Unable to compete, many licensed private facilities will be forced out of business and much-needed spaces will be lost.

Lynda Klassen-Ralph operates the Infant Toddler Day Nursery in St. Catharines. Parents of the 45 children in this centre choose to pay for the fine care she offers. They realize this alternative is in jeopardy and fear the centre may soon close. They will then add their names to a growing list of parents competing for publicly funded day care spaces.

No one questions the need for more day care in Ontario. What is in question is the means by which the minister plans to provide the required spaces. Destroying one sector of this industry to improve the other will leave us with a net gain of zero. I sincerely hope we can do better than that.

1340

FUNERAL SERVICES

Mr. Swart: The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) will know that in early May, Hamilton Funeral Homes Ltd., in which Arbour Capital Corp. has dominant ownership and is the parent of Memorial Gardens, was found guilty under the Combines Investigation Act and fined \$200,000. The court noted that within three weeks of final acquisition, funeral prices had soared from \$1,000 to \$1,600.

The crux of this issue is the ongoing takeover of the whole bereavement sector by the commercial cemeteries and corporate funeral chains, with inevitable increases in cost to the consumers. In addition are the unscrupulous business practices of certain commercial cemeteries. The minister knows all this from the report of Tom Turner, which he refuses to release.

For a year, the monument builders have been warning the minister about what is taking place and the dangers in it. The senior citizens and the Consumers' Association of Canada are now vigorously asking for legislative action to prevent these anticonsumer, damaging, corporate vertical and horizontal integrations.

The minister has the necessary power to bring in amending legislation to fully effect the separation of the three sectors of the bereavement industry. He has been stalling for a year. Time is running out. The pace of takeovers by the commercial cemeteries is increasing. The minister must act quickly. I urge him to give immediately a commitment that the legislation will be forthcoming in this session.

WALLY McCABE

Mr. Sargent: Last week, the Toronto Star featured the passing of a Royal Canadian Air Force pilot, Wally McCabe, which showed a picture of him being held by his captors, the Germans, after being shot down in France in 1942. Wally was a pilot in a strafing mission two days before the Dieppe raid. His whole crew was killed, but he survived and spent the balance of the war in a German prison camp, Stalag 8B.

After the war, he became a safe-driving expert with Ontario's Ministry of Transportation and Communications in charge of driver control. He was an Owen Sound boy and my friend. We were so very proud of him. His death is a great loss to his mother and family.

I thank the House for this chance to pay tribute to a great Canadian war hero.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Mr. Harris: I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) a letter from Irene Dinell, who inquired about information. She addresses her letter "Ontario-Incredible!"

"Incredible indeed is the misinformation available from the main travel information centre toll-free number, Toronto. My inquiry last week was about Deep River.... The statements made by the official were 'incredible.'"

I see the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) is not here.

"'Deep River? Never heard of it. Is it in Ontario? Are you sure? I'll check with other people in the office. No one here seems to have heard of it.'"

"After explaining that I had visited Deep River not long ago, so it could not possibly be a figment

of my imagination, he followed his previous statements with even more misinformation."

Travel centre: "There is no travel information centre in Deep River."

Mrs. Dinel: "They have a beautiful facility... which I have visited."

"Oh, I don't think so, we can't find anything on it."

Mrs. Dinel: "It's listed on page 4, Ontario Travellers' Encyclopaedia, 1986."

"Oh! Well, they don't have a mailing address, sorry."

"Persons paid with public funds to provide information about Ontario should be required to learn something about our wonderful province.... It is appalling to speculate on the misinformation being provided to those who may call your toll-free number," particularly in the last two years.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

ROOMERS, BOARDERS AND LODGERS

Hon. Mr. Scott: Today I will introduce for first reading, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act. The purpose of the amendment is to provide roomers and boarders with the kinds of safeguards tenants currently enjoy under the Landlord and Tenant Act.

The goal of equal protection for roomers and boarders was advocated by the Ontario Task Force on Roomers, Boarders and Lodgers, which reported to the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) in December 1986, and by the Minister of Housing's Advisory Committee on Roomers, Boarders and Lodgers, which reported in March 1987.

The government made a commitment in the throne speech to introduce measures to improve the conditions of roomers and boarders. The legislation I will be introducing today fulfils that commitment.

The principle of the legislation is clear: Roomers and boarders should not be denied the protection available to other tenants simply because of the technical legal distinction between tenants and licensees.

Most notably, roomers and boarders need protection against arbitrary eviction from their homes and they need remedies when a landlord has not adequately maintained the premises. These fundamental protections are currently available to tenants under the Landlord and Tenant Act.

The legislation I will be introducing ensures that the Landlord and Tenant Act will apply only to true rooming and boarding houses but not to

analogous types of accommodation whose nature and purpose makes security of tenure inappropriate.

Therefore, the legislation I am introducing will specifically exempt: accommodation provided to travellers and vacationers in hotels and other tourist establishments; short-term accommodation provided as emergency shelter; shared accommodation provided by educational institutions to students or staff, where the residents are under 18 or where a residents' council is consulted on decisions affecting the accommodation; separately regulated accommodation provided in nursing homes or homes for the aged, for example; and accommodation occupied for penal, correctional, rehabilitative or therapeutic purposes or for the purpose of receiving care, the same category exempt from rent review.

The Legislature has long recognized the special circumstances of renting out part of a private home in which the landlord shares facilities with the tenants. Therefore, this legislation will also exempt from the Landlord and Tenant Act accommodation provided to a person who shares bathroom or kitchen facilities with the landlord. In my view, the complexities of the Landlord and Tenant Act are not appropriate for the types of accommodation I have described as exemptions.

The bill I will introduce today also deals with some procedural issues, such as reducing the length of notice the landlords must give to terminate weekly tenancies for nonpayment of rent from 20 to seven days.

In short, I believe the legislation meets the government's commitment to improve the conditions facing roomers and boarders by providing them with equal protection to that currently enjoyed by tenants under the Landlord and Tenant Act.

RESPONSES

ROOMERS, BOARDERS AND LODGERS

Mr. Jackson: I wish to rise today to respond to the announcement by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), albeit short-circuited from the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling). I am concerned that the Attorney General has at this late and 11th hour decided he is now going to become part of the ball game with respect to resolving the issue of roomers and boarders and protection for Ontario.

The Attorney General has taken this issue and made a political football out of it because there were two teams in this Legislature already working on this issue. The recommended bill of

the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville), Bill 10, and my own bill on behalf of the official opposition, Bill 59, address substantively most of the points contained in the Attorney General's announcement. Instead of joining the two teams that are currently working on this bill, the minister has called the game off for lack of Liberal publicity.

The minister knows full well that groups have been picketing his offices and his constituency office for several months asking him to react and respond in a responsible manner. The Dale Bairstow report, started a year ago, made clear recommendations for this government to act; it set a clear track based on consensus. The Advisory Committee on Roomers, Boarders and Lodgers again made those recommendations and made them available to the Minister of Housing on March 20, 1987. But the Liberal government sat in deaf silence during debate in private members' time in this House. In fact, there were speakers who rose and spoke against the concept of providing protection for roomers and boarders in Ontario.

Why did they say, "We do not want to participate in a bill that is currently before the standing committee on administration of justice in this very building"? The minister had every opportunity to participate in the spirit of the Legislature, and we could have resolved this matter expeditiously within a couple of weeks. His 11th-hour announcement in this House will undoubtedly delay the passage of the bill which is basically put together in committee. It will delay that through the summer and well into the fall.

If the minister had not been boycotting those public hearings—the Attorney General's department has been boycotting these meetings, as has the Minister of Housing—he would have been privy to additional information that is being provided by deputant after deputant coming forward with substantive information about the implications of this bill. The bill is deficient with respect to certain exemptions where there is consensus in committee now, and the minister has bypassed that.

1350

Hon. Mr. Scott: We haven't seen it.

Mr. Jackson: Of course the Attorney General has not seen it, because he has chosen not to participate.

Of the many deputations that committee has heard, I wish to quote from only one statement, that of Barbara Hall, the alderman for ward 7, who stated:

"The Attorney General has told roomers that they would receive protection very soon. If the government has plans to improve the lot of roomers, then I challenge you to table those plans as amendments before this committee. I urge you not to make this a paper process by defeating Bill 10" and Bill 59 "and introducing your own legislation at a later date. Roomers can't afford to wait. They've already waited too long" under this government.

This bill has so much of an impact for roomers and boarders, particularly in the Toronto area, and the Attorney General sets himself up as a representative legislator of that constituency in the city of Toronto, yet he has delayed this. Now, with his announcement, he has in fact put off a final decision on this bill which could have been resolved in the next week.

It is unfortunate that instead of participating in this House on this bill, the minister has chosen to deny the legislative process with committee. He has said publicly that there is insufficient publicity for the government in this regard. If that is the minister's response, he has created a delay, and that has been done to the detriment of the roomers and boarders. He has addressed the issue on behalf of landlords, to compress the time for eviction, but nowhere in his report do we see the concept of risk situations where a tenant can be protected from other problems by virtue of his living in close proximity to other tenants.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Jackson: I ask the minister to pass the bill immediately.

Mr. Rae: Of all the cynical, manipulative announcements made by the Attorney General since he has arrived in this House as the Attorney General, this one takes the cake. The Attorney General does not mention in his statement today—and I know what the headlines in some of our newspapers are going to be, but for the satisfaction of members and for the satisfaction of the Attorney General's colleagues, I want to say just how cynical this manipulation is.

The Attorney General knows full well there are private members' bills that are now the subject of discussion in the standing committee on administration of justice. He does not mention those private members' bills once. Why? Because they are not moved by members of his own party, because he will not get credit for them if they are passed, because the Liberal Party's name will not be on them and because his picture will not be in the newspapers when they get through. That is the only reason the Attorney

General has moved this piece of legislation today.

If he has any amendments to move with respect to the bills that are now in committee, he can move them as soon as this week or indeed on Tuesday. If he wanted to move amendments on Tuesday, they could be moved on Tuesday and the bill could be law next week, if he was interested in doing it and if he wanted to do it.

Instead of doing that, what has the Attorney General done? He has come in here and has made a statement with respect to the work of his colleague the Minister of Housing, whom he has praised. He has praised the 162nd task force which has been established since he has become the Attorney General, with respect to the question of roomers and boarders.

But has he mentioned a word about the work of this Legislature? Has he said a word about the work of the justice committee, which he occasionally deigns to attend? Every once in a while, when he has to, he falls from the sky, drops in occasionally; otherwise he is never there. Has he mentioned any of that? No. Has he mentioned any other member of the House who has taken an interest in this matter from a party other than the Liberal Party of Ontario?

We should not be surprised, because those of us who are opposed to the Attorney General in our political lives have become used to this cynicism—and there is no other word for it—the most cynical manipulation of headlines, the most cynical manipulation of issues and indeed, when you come to the problem, the most cynical manipulation of some of the most vulnerable citizens in our province, those who are roomers and boarders.

That is what makes this exercise on the part of the Attorney General so distasteful, that instead of addressing this issue in a constructive way—instead of saying, “There are members from other parties, not my own, who have chosen to move on this issue and we are going to be supporting them and we have some amendments to make,” instead of choosing to go that route—he says, “I, the Attorney General, am going to provide the salvation to this problem,” when in fact the way in which the Attorney General has intended to move is only going to delay the solution to this problem.

I would like the House to be aware of these facts and I would like the Attorney General to know that he may be able to fool some of the people some of the time, but that number is quickly being reduced the more announcements like this he makes.

Mr. Reville: The announcement by the Attorney General today makes me wonder what time zone he inhabits.

On May 15, Bill 10, which I was pleased to place before the Legislature, passed second reading. The hearings concluded just yesterday in the administration of justice committee, and I am amazed that throughout those hearings we did not hear helpful comments from members of the Attorney General's party who sat on that committee.

Referring to a statement in this document, which comes to my house frequently—because, until a happy day, I live in St. George-St. David or wherever it is—the Attorney General said three weeks ago, “We have also moved to give roomers, boarders and lodgers legal protection.” In an atmosphere where some of us have doubts about the absolute veracity of things that are said in this House, it is no wonder why we have such doubts.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will now head into a quiet, orderly question period.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Gillies: I have a question for the acting Minister of Government Services (Mr. Conway), who must be out practising his rhetoric on some poor soul, so I will stand it down, if that is all right.

Mr. Speaker: Is there agreement of the House to stand down the acting leader's first question? Agreed.

ONTARIO HYDRO PLANNING

Mr. Andrewes: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. I wonder whether the minister has heard these quotes and whether he agrees with them.

The first one is, “The Demand-Supply Options Study is one of the most important pieces of planning ever undertaken by Ontario Hydro.” That is a quote from Tom Campbell, the chairman of Hydro.

“The Demand-Supply Options Study is essentially a framework that will guide future decision-making.” That is a quote from Lorne McConnell before the select committee on energy about a year and a half ago.

I wonder if the minister would agree with those statements and if he would report to us on the status of Hydro's Demand-Supply Options Study.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Certainly I have heard those comments by Hydro and those people who

are interested. It does not necessarily follow that I agree with what Ontario Hydro says.

The fact of the matter is that we have an agenda that is very important. It has to do with many other options, and we are going to pursue those options in the best interests of the people of Ontario.

Mr. Andrewes: Obviously, the minister does not know the status of Hydro's Demand-Supply Options Study, something that Ontario Hydro and the minister have touted as being the most open and effective planning process ever undertaken by Ontario Hydro.

Since the study has now been in progress for some period of time—I believe about three years—can the minister confirm that the decision to reopen the Lennox generating plant and the statements of Sam Horton, the vice-president of Ontario Hydro, that Ontario needs more nuclear plants to meet its electricity needs sooner or later, are consistent with the thrust of Hydro's Demand-Supply Options Study?

1400

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The honourable member does not even know that the Ontario Hydro chairman does not agree with the interpretation he has just read into the record. Certainly we are looking at all the other options and building another nuclear plant is not a high priority. As far as opening the Lennox plant is concerned, the member knows the very reason we opened it is that we need about 25 or 30 days of power from that plant to maintain the voltage in that area because we have a difficult situation.

I am pleased to say that the honourable member from the area supported the government in reopening Lennox. It is going to provide jobs in the area. I am very surprised and disappointed that members over there cannot get their act together and come with one voice. It makes it difficult to respond to their questions.

Mr. Andrewes: Late last fall, the chairman of Ontario Hydro indicated that the decision on a new nuclear plant must be made within the next two years. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) at the time, following questions by the *Toronto Star*, said: "There is no crisis looming on the horizon. There is lots of lead time." In the same article, the Minister of Energy appeared to agree with Mr. Campbell's assessment.

Who are we to believe? Do we believe the minister? Do we believe the Premier? Do we believe Mr. Horton or Mr. Campbell and the statements they are making, all of which seem to be pre-empting what Ontario Hydro has touted, what the minister has touted and what his

officials in testimony before the select committee touted as being one of the most open, long-term, effective energy planning policies ever undertaken by Ontario Hydro? Who are we to believe?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It is quite obvious that the new thrust from that party is to attack individuals and try to talk about their credibility. What I am telling the member is that we are deciding on the agenda for the future energy needs of this province. We are looking at all kinds of options, as is Ontario Hydro. It has agreed and is in fact co-operating with us to a degree that it never has before. We are looking at sources that those members did not bring on stream. We are bringing them on stream. I suppose that if I were still sitting over there on those benches, I might be upset at the initiatives this government is taking on behalf of the people of Ontario.

CONVERSION OF RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Rae: My question is to the Minister of Housing. I would like to ask the minister a question in relation to some of the answers he gave to the House yesterday. The minister stated that I was wrong when I told the House the government was subsidizing the construction of condominiums.

If the government of Ontario makes an interest-free loan to a developer, whoever it may be; if that developer uses the interest-free money for a period of two, three or four years for construction of a series of apartments under the Renterprise program; and if he then proceeds to register those apartments for condominiums and indicates they are going to be used as condominiums and as a result of that gives back the money, which he has had use of interest-free for two, three or four years; can the minister tell me why that is not in fact and in effect a subsidy by Ontario to developers for the construction of condominiums?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The honourable leader of the third party made mention of the Renterprise program, which is a rental unit development program not a condominium program. If the condition changes to condominium, as I have stated to the leader of the third party, all money that flowed to that developer must be returned.

Mr. Rae: I do not want to be rude to the minister but I do want to say to him that we have had the Ontario rental construction loan program under the Tories, the so-called Canada-Ontario rental supply program under the Tories and the Renterprise program from the minister's party. They are all exactly the same: interest-free loans.

I do not know about the minister but when I go to the bank I get charged interest for the money I borrow. Most people get charged interest for the money they borrow. If they do not pay interest, it is a subsidy.

Would the minister not agree that if somebody is using money interest free and then giving it back, the use of that money still represents a subsidy? What is he doing subsidizing the developers of this province in the construction of condominiums when the purpose of the Renterprise program is to provide affordable housing for people who cannot get housing right now and who need that housing and are being denied that housing because of his hopeless, pathetic, rich man's policy, which is a policy he is supporting?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I do not think a shouting match will help in that respect.

It has been the position of the third party all along that we should not involve the private sector in any way in rental supplies. We have different programs. When the member becomes the Premier of this province, which I do not think he ever will, and has the jurisdiction to bring in his own housing policy, he may then bring his program in. Our program is to encourage the private sector to build rental units. We also have our social housing units built by the nonprofit organizations. But I am not here to espouse the member's philosophy. Our philosophy is to involve the private sector as well as the nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Rae: The minister is taxing the patience, not only of the House but of those people looking for a place to live; that is the problem. Does he not understand that, just like the ORCL program, I can show him the list of all the corporations that are converting to condominiums? The information comes from his own ministry. It comes from his own officials. We can show him the list of the companies that did the same thing under the ORCL program, which my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) clearly established as a classic Tory ripoff in the last days of Pompeii when the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) was the Minister of Housing. It was exactly the same thing.

Let me give the minister an example. If Bellcroft Construction, which is building 714 units in Scarborough, has use of interest-free money under a so-called Renterprise program which is supposed to be for renters and in fact is using that interest-free money in order to build a condominium, would the minister not agree that what Ontario is doing is giving that interest-free

money for a period of time to a developer who is making condominiums and not making affordable housing for working people? That is the issue. Does he not understand that issue? What is he going to do to stop it?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The honourable leader has given the impression that these units are not affordable. They are being rented out, and a rent-geared-to-income policy is applied to those clients who are being accessed to those units.

The program is one to encourage the private sector to be involved in the rental market; also, to provide units for people who cannot afford them, with assistance through our rent-geared-to-income policy.

Mr. Speaker: I see the acting Minister of Government Services has returned.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Mr. Gillies: I would like to ask the minister, now that he has had a chance to review the question I asked him the day before yesterday, if he would confirm, in terms of the computer contracts let out by the Ministry of Government Services, for which he is responsible, that over 50 per cent of those contracts in 1985-86 were not tendered; also, that a further 31 per cent of the contracts let out by the Ministry of Education, for which he is also responsible, were untendered, for a total of over \$10 million in untendered contracts. Can he explain that to the House?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would be delighted, because I was anxious to share the information with the honourable member yesterday. If I could, because I have prepared an answer to a question previously put in this connection by the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), I will take this opportunity to address both issues raised by him in his question two days ago.

On that occasion, he asked if I could "tell him a bit" about a contract involving a company called CCA Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Government Services, a contract he indicated had been concluded on July 17, 1985.

I can tell him that my research, which has been very carefully undertaken, indicates that particular contract was part of a larger arrangement that was begun by the Tory government in Ontario in February 1985. The member for Brantford was very anxious—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

1410

Hon. Mr. Conway: The question also asked about the involvement of Abe Schwartz. I am

pleased to tell my friend the member for Brantford that the person in question had severed his relationship in June 1985 from the company, but the evidence suggests that Abe Schwartz had been doing a lot of business with the Tories in office, beginning, as I recall, in July 1983. I want to satisfy the member's concern that somehow Mr. Schwartz had not been involved with his own government.

Mr. Gillies: That answer from the minister was as close to a load of tripe as I have ever heard from him. I caution the minister that every time one of his colleagues played basketball with the truth yesterday, we lost a member out of here. The way he is going, we could lose a quorum very rapidly.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Gillies: Would the minister confirm, in response to the substantive question, that one half of the computer contracts let by his two ministries in 1985-86, a total more than \$10 million in contracts, were not tendered? Would he confirm that the contract in question to the company that Mr. Schwartz had been a party to was let on July 17, 1985, which was during his term as minister and was at the selfsame time that Mr. Schwartz was in his ministry advising him on the question of computer contracts?

Hon. Mr. Conway: No, no, a thousand times, no. Where do I begin to tell the story of yet another Tory misadventure, a Tory misunderstanding and a misrepresentation? Let me try.

I became the acting Minister of Government Services in June 1986, not in June or July 1985. Mr. Schwartz came to my office in the Ministry of Education as an unpaid adviser on matters relating to computers in education in September 1985, months after the contracting question had been concluded.

About the contracting question with CCA Canada, the billing date to the Ministry of Government Services, interestingly, is June 26, 1985. On this particular contract, the evidence is everywhere and abundantly clear that the deal was begun and consummated by those rascals over there. If the member for Brantford has a complaint, he has the complaint with his friends the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe) and the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman), who struck the dastardly deed and who made the arrangement with the famous Abe Schwartz.

Mr. Gillies: The minister is giving us a dazzling display of dancing, but he has failed to acknowledge to this House that all the contracts about which we are talking were tendered under

this administration and that over \$10 million worth of these contracts were not tendered. The minister has not answered that question.

In answering, I wonder if the minister would tell us about a further two contracts given out to the Polaris company, another Graham-Schwartz company, in the amount of \$49,000. In telling us about the \$55,000 to CCA, the \$49,000 to Polaris and the \$10 million he has given away without tender, I wonder if the minister would reflect for a moment and tell us a bit about all those contracts.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Be gentle, Sean, be gentle.

Hon. Mr. Conway: It is so difficult. The poor man is so wrong that he well qualifies to sit beside the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman).

The poor member for Brantford completely misunderstands what the Manual of Administration allows. He thinks, poor man, that all contracts have to be tendered. It is quite clear from the Manual of Administration that is not so. There are provisions in the manual that allow Management Board to provide an exemption. There are provisions in the manual that allow the deputy minister to give his approval for contracts under \$20,000. There are provisions in the manual for officials to approve if the amount is below \$10,000. The honourable member just does not seem to understand what the Manual of Administration provides.

The many abuses in this area in which no less a person than the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) happily engaged, with two contracts in June 1985, in the dying days of Pompeii, those practices that caused me so much concern and about which the honourable member should be concerned, I have moved to correct in Government Services and in Education.

There is much more. Please ask me.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Conway: There is a chronology that I would like the honourable member to have.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Reville: While we are on about people who are so wrong, it may be appropriate to address a question to the Minister of Housing. Building condominiums is in fact different from building rental accommodation.

Yesterday, I mentioned to the minister that there was a tenant facing the horrendous prospect of a 100 per cent rent increase. The minister has told the Toronto Star he does not think it is possible. On the other hand, his director of rent

review policy, Dr. Patrick Laverty, has said it is possible.

I have sent the minister a copy of the bill. I want to point out that it has his name on it, not mine. Would it be asking too much for him to turn to page 42 in answering this question, reflect on the contents of subsection 80(2) and answer: is it possible to have a 100 per cent increase or is it not?

Hon. Mr. Curling: With respect to the question the member asked yesterday and in connection with the article in the *Toronto Star* that asked is it possible: in the past, in the post-1975 buildings it was possible that people would have a 100 per cent or 200 per cent increase. The implication here, or the impression that one is giving, is that it was not possible to do so. It was possible, but what happened in the past was that individuals did not have any way to redress their concerns, whether they had an increase of 200 per cent or 300 per cent. What has happened now is that the provisions of Bill 51 give redress to those tenants to bring those under the review process. Should a request of 100 per cent be asked, they can go through that process.

In response to what I stated in the *Toronto Star*, when they asked me I said the worst-case scenario presented to me at the time the bill was being heard was that 20 or 25 per cent was a possibility that could happen in those instances. Dr. Laverty, and I think this is very important—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It may be important. I am sure there will be a supplementary and you may be able to get it in then.

1420

Mr. Reville: I wonder whether the minister can tell us what possible social benefit there may be to having subsection 80(2) in tenant protection legislation if, as the minister seems to be saying although it is a bit difficult to tell, a 100 per cent rent increase would be possible. Why ever did he allow himself to be talked into thinking 30 per cent was the top when in fact he now is saying 100 per cent is the top? What is the section for?

Hon. Mr. Curling: Further to that question, Dr. Laverty from the ministry had shown that theoretically it is quite possible for someone to apply for a 100 per cent increase. Whether that is happening in reality is another matter. To say I have been talked into 25 per cent or 30 per cent is wrong; I have not been talked into it. I just stated that those were the examples that were before us that my staff had shown me. Of course, while things may seem impossible, it is probably quite practical.

Mr. Reville: The mind boggles. Let me suggest to the minister by way of supplementary that the explanation given by his staff for this section was to create incentives for people to build new buildings and to give a bonus—the very words—to those landlords who own buildings that were going to be taken under rent review for the first time.

Is it not the case that this section allows an economic loss to be claimed by a landlord over and over again on every resale, thus creating an endless succession of 100 per cent rent increases for the unfortunate tenants of this province? Is that not the case?

Hon. Mr. Curling: To use an example such as that is not even practical. As a matter of fact, to pursue that kind of example is to give the wrong impression to the public, that someone will constantly be buying a unit for a continuous loss as we have new owners. I think that is the wrong impression to give the public.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Mr. Gillies: I have a further question for the acting Minister of Government Services, who appears to have absented himself again.

Mr. O'Connor: Ran away.

Ms. Fish: Fled the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Perhaps another member of the official opposition might ask a question.

Ms. Fish: Here he comes. Here he is.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: The minister, in all his polemics, has continually failed to answer the main thrust of the question. I will ask it again.

Computer contracts within the government are supposed to be tendered according to the *Manual of Administration*, unless they are of very small value in terms of the transaction or if there is a single-source supplier. All the ministries of the government rank up such that, apart from those ministries for which this minister is responsible, only the Ministry of Natural Resources approached 26 per cent in untendered contracts.

Of the two ministries for which this minister is responsible, the Ministry of Education had 31 per cent of its computer contracts untendered and the Ministry of Government Services had fully 50.4 per cent. Is the minister telling this House that of all the computer software and hardware his ministry uses, fully 50 per cent of it is either in terms of tiny, small contracts or in contracts for which there is only one source in the whole province? Is that what he is telling the House?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I cannot tell the honourable member how much I appreciate the opportunity to walk with him once again down this happy path. I want to tell the honourable member that the Manual of Administration states that contracts can be let in four ways: first, by competitive tender; second, with Management Board approval when the amount in question is more than \$20,000 and it is demonstrated that no alternative supplier exists; third, with the deputy minister's approval when the amount is under \$20,000; and fourth, with the approval of ministry officials for small-value amounts, which in MGS are usually about \$1,000.

The honourable member seems to be confused in thinking there is only the competitive tender process. What the honourable member suggests is true; in some areas, particularly computer software, we are often dealing with only one supplier. It is also true that in certain aspects in the past in the Ministry of Education, there were certain areas of confusion. There must have been, otherwise the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) would not have presided over the letting of two contracts for nearly \$200,000 in June 1985, in this particular connection.

I came to office and I recognized that some people obviously were having some difficulty with how the manual applied, particularly in the area where there was only one supplier in computer software. I have moved to clarify that, and I point out that since taking office at Government Services a year ago—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: The very, very lame excuse offered by this government for the \$5 million it sank into and lost with the Graham Software company is that the government wanted to encourage the development of the software industry in this province, particularly in terms of wholesaling and the development of new sources. Anyone in the software business will tell you he would have no way of knowing whether he can prepare software programs for the ministry's use unless he is given the opportunity to either tender or prepare proposals.

Is the minister saying that on the one hand his government wants to say, "We want to develop the software industry in this province," and that on the other hand the Minister of Government Services is saying, "For 50 per cent-plus of our contracts, only one source is available"? Does the minister really want the House to believe that?

Hon. Mr. Conway: It is not as the honourable member describes. Let us not forget where the honourable member began a few days ago. He was trying to create the impression that somehow Abe Schwartz had some kind of good deal in the very early days of this government. The evidence which I have uncovered, the material which I have supplied today, shows that the particular contract in question was negotiated almost entirely by the Tories in office and, perhaps more important, that Abe Schwartz and Polaris were doing very, very well, thank you very much, since at least 1983, with the Ontario Tories. I think that is the salient reality to which we want to turn our minds today.

RADIOACTIVE SOIL

Mr. Charlton: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. For some time now, the minister has been hiding behind the court challenge by the Reesor Road residents about the use of that Reesor Road site for the disposal of the McClure Crescent contaminated soil from Malvern. As that excuse is no longer in place—the Reesor Road residents have lost their challenge in court—is the minister prepared today to tell us of his plans to remove the contaminated soil from McClure Crescent?

Hon. Mr. Curling: Let me just bring the member up to date about that. I am the member for the great riding of Scarborough North, of course, and the Minister of Housing, but the responsibility for moving that soil does not fall under either the member for Scarborough North or the Minister of Housing.

1430

Mr. Charlton: Perhaps the minister, also being the member for the affected area, can take the position that his party took when in opposition and talk to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) and the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) about making a better decision than the bad deal negotiated by the former government with the federal government to move the soil to Reesor Road and opt instead for a better solution: to move that soil to either the Bruce nuclear site or to Chalk River, where we have licensed disposal facilities.

Hon. Mr. Curling: I appreciate the comments made by the honourable member. Of course, I need the soil to be moved as fast as possible. I will be speaking to the Minister of the Environment on that matter and taking the member's suggestion to him.

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

Mr. Mancini: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I am sure the minister will know that a few weeks ago the Federation of Canadian Municipalities met in Ottawa and put forward a scheme whereby it asked the government of Canada to share with the Ontario government and itself the high cost of rebuilding the infrastructure that is needed in our province and in all the other provinces of Canada. They asked the government of Canada for a \$5-billion proposal which would then be shared by the two other levels of government.

Could the Minister of the Environment bring us up to date as to whether he is aware of this proposal or whether he intends to share in such a proposal?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I think the issue that is identified by the member is one that is relevant to all members of the Legislature. The member may not be aware of it, but at the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers which was held in Alberta this year, I raised that issue with the federal minister. Interestingly enough, and this is not always the case with issues of federal-provincial jurisdiction, there seemed to be unanimous agreement by the provincial environment ministers that indeed the federal government has a significant financial role to play in infrastructure renewal.

I think all the provincial ministers—and I certainly advocate this position—said they were interested in that and that they were prepared to come forward with an infrastructure renewal program. For it to be a success—that is, for it to be a comprehensive enough program, a widespread enough program—and for it to move as rapidly as I think many of us who represent municipalities across this province would like, it would really take a situation where the federal government were to get back into the business.

My friend the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), who is quite familiar with this situation, was a person who I think advocated and was successful at one point in regard to the Niagara Falls sewage treatment plant in securing the kind of funding, approximately one third, one third, one third, which was very helpful in solving that problem. Like the municipalities right across Canada, I would like to see that program implemented across this country.

Mr. Mancini: I am sure that all members of the Legislature have a number of projects in their constituencies that will not be able to go forward because of the demands on the Ministry of the Environment, even though the budget of the

Ministry of the Environment has been substantially increased.

I would like to know from the minister just how far back the nonparticipation of the government of Canada will put Ontario in rebuilding the massive infrastructure that we so desperately need.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Members who have been familiar with these problems, and I know everybody in the House has them, would know that we would like to move forward with a number of projects for which there are proposals put forward. My friend the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) knows they have some interesting projects in the Thunder Bay area they would like to see moving quickly—

Mr. Pierce: That is because of—

Hon. Mr. Bradley: —and my friend the member for Rainy River (Mr. Pierce).

If there were federal funding available in addition to the provincial funding and the municipal funding, I think we could see several projects accelerated by a number of years in the speed with which they are implemented. I think we could do a greater number of communities than is the situation should we have only a provincial program with municipal participation. In this case, I know on this issue I could probably count on the support, and I have already read it publicly, of my friend the member for Sarnia, who indicated he was in favour of that. I appreciate that kind of support and that nonpartisan stature, and I know members of the third party who would be pleased to see this kind of support.

So, yes, I will continue to press this. I think it is good, not only for the renewal of the infrastructure that is there but also for the side effect of producing many thousands of jobs across this country and revenues for government.

HOSPITAL SITE

Mr. O'Connor: A question to the Minister of Health: the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Ontario Cancer Institute were told on August 5, 1986, that they were to receive funding to be rebuilt on a new site, with a completion date of 1995.

Can the minister inform the House as to the location that has been chosen between the two sites that are competing? If not, could he advise us as to when that announcement might be made?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman knows that in fact there are a number of competing sites, not just two. There were a number of resolutions passed, even by the OCI,

in which they indicated they had changed their minds with respect to the location of the rebuilt facility. As a result of that, as he knows, we instituted a study to weigh the relative merits with respect to a number of sites, not just two.

That report has been made, and we continue to examine the ramifications of the decision to move to any particular site or to remain at the current location. When we have resolved the difficulties that come out of the considerations of site location for the redevelopment, we will then be in a position to make an announcement.

Mr. O'Connor: As the minister well knows, the hospital is now treating some 7,000 new patients a year. It was built to handle 4,500 new patients a year. The lineups are getting longer. I can tell him from personal experience that the clinics are crowded and people are often sent away and told to come back the next day, which makes the lineup problem even longer. The electrical system in the building is inadequate to handle the electrical equipment for treatment of these patients.

On August 5, 1986, the minister unequivocally and clearly said a decision would be made within three months. I think he will agree with that; he is nodding in the affirmative. It is now 10 months later. The situation is desperate. Can he tell us when the decision will be made?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will repeat again for the honourable gentleman something I said in answer to his first question. There was a change of opinion by the OCI with respect to where it would like to build. The member knows that; I know that; the world knows that.

Mr. O'Connor: They always wanted to go to University Avenue. They never changed their minds at all.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, that is not so. The honourable gentleman knows that is not the case. It is obvious that he has not followed with the degree of—what will we say—exactitude that was required, the questions that were raised about where this facility might be located. There were questions about rebuilding on the same site, rebuilding at Sherbourne Street, rebuilding at the Toronto General Hospital location, rebuilding at Sunnybrook and rebuilding on University Avenue. He knows that; I know that; and there was some concern about the change of opinion with respect to the board's decisions.

I had to go back through that and weigh the relative merits. We have indications about the relative merits of each site. There are certain implications for all those decisions being made. We are examining those. The honourable gentle-

man knows that the failure to address at a much earlier date the concerns raised and reports, beginning as early as 1973, about the need for renewal of that particular facility, has caused us some degree of difficulty. I appreciate that; he appreciates that; and no one wishes to have lineups at our cancer treatment facilities.

The truth of the matter is that in contrast to former delay in coming forward with an aggressive program to renew our capital structure, the adequate funding provided by our friend the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) is allowing us now to move forward to make final decisions.

1440

MARKETING BOARDS

Mr. Hayes: My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

The Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board presented a proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food near the end of March requesting a vote to change its marketing plan to re-establish the integrity of the orderly marketing system, because the rules of the system are being broken, prices are being discounted and growers are being intimidated. The vegetable growers met with the deputy minister on April 1, the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board on April 8, and they also had a joint meeting on May 20 with the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board and the processors on this particular issue.

Can the minister tell us why, after three months, the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board has not received a response from his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: There have been a number of meetings with the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board, the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board and the Ontario Food Processors Association. It was not just one meeting. They have met several times. The Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board made its recommendations to me about two days ago. I have called for a meeting of the vegetable growers' marketing board to discuss these recommendations. I also will be meeting with the food processors association to discuss the recommendations of the farm products marketing board, after which time I will be in a position to make a decision.

Mr. Hayes: Several times the Minister of Agriculture and Food has stood up in this House and said that if any of these various farm groups or commodity groups wanted to change anything in their marketing systems, all they would have to do is go to the Ontario Farm Products

Marketing Board and they would get it because it is up to them to make the decision. Yet, after three months, the minister is going to make the decision for them.

Will the minister give them the right to have the vote so they can make their decisions on what type of marketing system they want?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Obviously, the honourable member does not understand the procedure. The Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board does not make the decision: the board makes recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the minister then makes the decision. Whatever decision I make, after I discuss it further with the vegetable growers and the food processors association, I will, in all probability, go to the vegetable growers for a vote.

FISHING LICENCE REVENUES

Mr. Ward: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources.

Some months ago when I purchased my fishing licence I received this pamphlet, entitled the New Ontario Residents' Sport Fishing Licence, which indicates: "Your licence dollars are working right now to improve fisheries management in Ontario. They are being used, for example, to expand the popular community fisheries program, improve fisheries habitat, culture Atlantic salmon and steelhead trout for stocking in the Great Lakes and to hire more conservation officers and fisheries technicians across the province."

I note the pamphlet is dated February and I would like to ask the minister whether this pamphlet received widespread distribution, particularly in the Timmins area.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am very pleased to respond to that question. I do not have to have any concern that the member might have to leave the House during the exchange. Having said that, I think it is very important to get on the record again, after some of the comments that were made, that in the very early stages in proposing such a fee to the users in Ontario, we said back in January 1986—it is in Hansard and I would like to put it on the record again:

"I would like to say that the benefit of this"—we are talking about the licence—"is that our fisheries management programs will be better geared to the needs of the resource user. We believe the majority of anglers support the concept of a resident fishing licence as a means of helping to pay for the following: protection,

maintenance and rebuilding of the resource they all use."

I have to tell members that also, when we decided in January there would be a user fee—I like to think of it as a user fee, because when people hunt and when they do those other things, they are charged a fee to do so—I asked the people who pursue the sport of angling in the province to support a user fee. I am looking for the co-operation of the honourable members, who had the sort of discourse yesterday I was not too pleased about, because what we are going to do is put this money to good use, as has been described in the pamphlet.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Sarnia.

Mr. Brandt: I was almost certain there would have to be a supplementary following that very probing question.

GOVERNMENT MAIL

Mr. Brandt: I have a question to the acting Minister of Government Services. As the minister is well aware, a series of rotating strikes is presently under way in Canada, related to the Canada Post situation. Could the minister share with this House any contingency plans the government has with respect to the delivery of cheques during a time when there may be some disruption in the mail service?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Yes, and I very much appreciate the honourable member's concern about a subject that I know will be on the minds of a good number of residents in the province and all members of this assembly. We have in place a contingency plan that will ensure that for government mail, government cheques particularly, those entitled to those transfers will be able to receive them.

Specifically, we will be using all government offices across the province, individual ministries such as the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Revenue, to name two. We will be advertising throughout all the media, particularly the 43 daily newspapers of the province, to make very clear to people in Sarnia and Lambton where it is they will go to receive their particular cheques or where they might leave mail destined for the government.

We recognize as well that these are rotating strikes. Ontario has not yet—at least at my last information—been struck, but we may have to take additional measures. We will assess that at that particular point in time.

Mr. Brandt: As the minister is well aware, the needy, elderly and disabled are going to be in

need of those particular cheques. I appreciate the fact that the government has already sent some cheques out early in anticipation of some disruption of service, but I would urge the government—and perhaps the minister may wish to respond to this—to advise the members of this House specifically of the plans in a more detailed and more focused way than the minister has just shared with me now.

I simply want the government to be aware of the fact that a disruption is imminent and is highly likely in the light of the rotating strikes, and these individuals are going to be requiring payment of their particular cheques.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Again, I think the honourable member makes a very good point. I want to agree with him. A communication is now being circulated to all members. I want to indicate again that a plan is in place for all Community and Social Services cheques, for example, to be delivered to the local Community and Social Services office. Then specific further plans will be in place so that the individuals or their families can come and receive those; and where they cannot, we will as a government ensure that a delivery is made.

I want to assure all honourable members today—and I will through a communication they should have in their hands within the next very few days; hopefully within the next very few hours—how specific ministries are going to be proceeding. I want the member to know as well that we will have an advertising campaign that will make clear to people living in Sarnia, Lambton or anywhere else in the province how they can expect to receive materials and how they can transmit back to government.

1450

FISHING LICENCE REVENUES

Mr. Wildman: With as much restraint as I can muster, I would like to place a question to the Minister of Natural Resources. The minister made a statement in January 1986 in this House, in which he said: "This ministry, through the community fisheries involvement program, is doing good things right now in this province to improve the habitat, to build hatcheries and to provide fishing for the people of Ontario.... I am going to use the money"—that is, the money from the sale of fishing licences—"for that cause."

Since the minister has admitted that despite his statement he intends to use some of this revenue from the sale of fishing licences to subsidize the ongoing operations of his ministry, to hire more personnel, can he inform the House of the total

number of conservation officers he has hired, how many more he intends to hire and what percentage of the fishing licence revenue will be used for this purpose?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I certainly want to respond to the member, because I am hoping I can convince him that he should help with this initiative.

When I accepted this ministry, there were many problems that we had to cope with. The forests were somewhat depleted, moose were depleted to the point where there were less than 60,000 in the herd and a lottery system had been set up to be able to accommodate people who would hunt them. We also had our deer depleted. I want to tell the member that those other involvements paid for a licence to pursue those particular hobbies.

What I am saying now is that the fisheries were depleted as well. We are prepared to move forward to address all these problems. Last year, we spent \$30 million to spray our forests to protect them. We are doing things that have brought the moose herds back to 100,000 animals. We need conservation officers to do this. What surprises me is that the other day the member asked a question about conservation officers. The member should make up his mind. Does he want them or does he not?

Mr. Wildman: It might be helpful to us all if the minister would plant some fish instead of planting questions with his back-benchers.

I want to point out that this pamphlet simply confirms that the minister was going back on his commitment to the anglers in this province even earlier than he did in this House.

The minister did not answer the question. Can the minister confirm that he is hiring only two, or three at the maximum, more conservation officers, that one is going to be located in Terrace Bay and one in Chatham and that, besides that, he intends to have five split positions, conservation officers and fisheries technicians of some sort?

If that is the case, can he tell us what percentage of the time that these officers are going to be working they will be working in fisheries management? Overall, will he tell us when he intends to appoint the fisheries advisory committee he promised would monitor the use of the revenue from the sale of the fish licences to ensure that it is used for fisheries management and not these other things he seems to want to use it for?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It is very difficult to respond to a question like that, but I will try. The

fact of the matter is that the member stood in his place two days ago and was questioning why we should not have more conservation officers. Now he is standing here today and saying we should not have any more conservation officers. The member is going to have to make up his mind which it is, and then I will respond.

But I want to share something with the member. We have some 238 conservation officers across this province. They are spread out in a way that they can react to the areas that require the most conservation officers. I would like to share a number with the member that is very important. We are not dedicating and committing some \$8 million this year to the fisheries; we are going to commit the \$8 million we get from the fishing licences plus \$4 million. We are going to put in \$12 million to enhance the fisheries in Ontario, and some of that is going to be for conservation officers.

CLOSING OF REGIONAL OFFICE

Mr. Harris: I wonder whether the Minister of Tourism and Recreation can explain the closing of the North Bay Ministry of Tourism and Recreation office and the elimination of four more government jobs in North Bay, a move that has been described by one ministry official as a new corporate approach in the ministry. Will the minister tell me two things? One, how will this assist with the delivery of recreational services in our northern community? Two, can the minister tell us why his government is secretly closing this office and eliminating jobs in North Bay with no public announcements or involvement?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I am pleased to reply to that. The move is part of the evolutionary process of the ministry since its formation in 1982. The member for Nipissing will know that the decision to relocate the northeastern regional office was discussed with him in 1983 and that he agreed that Sudbury was the best location for a regional office for a number of reasons.

Mr. Harris: I would be interested in seeing where the minister got that stupid lie from, but let me carry on.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member withdraw that word "lie"?

Mr. Harris: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: You will withdraw?

Mr. Harris: If it offends you, yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Will you withdraw?

Mr. Harris: I did, Mr. Speaker. I said, yes, if it offends you.

Mr. Speaker: It does.

Mr. Harris: If it does not offend you, no. Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr. Harris: The minister obviously knows little about what is happening. This is the third time in the past year that government operations have been secretly closed in North Bay. We had the Ombudsman to Toronto, the Ministry of Revenue with two jobs to Oshawa and now Tourism and Recreation.

Since the minister does not know what is going on in northern Ontario, the reality of what is happening is that the regional director was originally hired to work out of North Bay, but he would not move to North Bay because he wanted to keep his home and commute from Sudbury. Now he wants to move the whole management team from North Bay to Sudbury because he does not want to move.

Will the minister not agree that it makes more sense to move one person to North Bay, where he was supposed to be in the first place and where he was hired to work, rather than move the whole division to satisfy the wishes of one of the ministry officials, who I admit has been fighting since 1983 to get everything where he wants to live?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I simply point out again that the Sudbury location was approved by the previous government.

Mr. Harris: Wrong. No, it was not.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Yes, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture all have regional offices in Sudbury. Sudbury is central to the region and there will be no lessening of service to the total area. Some of our staff are still in North Bay.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: —that is not true. You know it is not true. You are moving people—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member take his seat. I would like to remind all members that they are responsible for the standing orders. They approved them, and I wish all members would maintain those standing orders.

PETITIONS

PUBLIC EDUCATION TAXES

Mr. Pouliot: I have a petition signed by some residents of Nicol Island, Whitesand Lake and

Rosspport in the great riding of Lake Nipigon. They are asking the Ontario government to investigate the interpretation of representation of unorganized towns during the arbitration process for the purpose of assessing public education taxes.

Mr. Speaker: I ask all members to reduce their private conversations. Some members wish to present petitions.

NOISE BARRIER

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I have a petition signed by 96 constituents of my riding and the riding of Kitchener-Wilmot, asking that the government place sound barriers on the Conestoga Parkway between the Courtland Avenue and King Street interchanges, indicating that this area should receive priority in view of the fact that it has one of the highest noise levels in the province, with decibel ratings of 66.9, almost as high as in this chamber.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder whether the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) and the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) would—

Mr. D. R. Cooke: There is apparently a noise decibel level of 66.9 at that point on the Conestoga Parkway. Many of the signatories indicate that this results in loss of sleep, loss of recreational use of the backyards, the irritation of vibrating windows and fixtures, as well as lost trees and scrubs through road salt damage.

1500

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

LANDLORD AND TENANT AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved first reading of Bill 87, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Any further explanations?

Hon. Mr. Scott: No, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 56, An Act to control temporarily Automobile Insurance Rates in Ontario.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I appreciate the opportunity to continue the address I was making late yesterday. I got about 10 minutes into this bill and I would like to continue from that point.

We are addressing Bill 56, which has quite an odd title, An Act to control temporarily Automobile Insurance Rates in Ontario. One has to wonder why the word “temporarily” is in there. Of course, all the indications are that not only will it not control the rates but also there is no real intention of the government of Ontario to address this issue, which is one that is of such serious concern to so many people across Ontario.

The debate on high auto insurance rates continues to grow. That is because the rates we are paying continue to go up. We have had premium increases in Ontario of at least 45 per cent over the last three years. My community of Sault Ste. Marie is no different than other communities across this province. My office has been receiving many calls from Sault residents who are facing outrageous increases in their auto insurance rates.

I recently talked to a small business owner in the Sault who stated a serious insurance problem. His 1985 insurance premium was about \$12,000 for his trucking business, which employs eight people. This year, the cheapest rate he could find for that same coverage is over \$33,000, and he has been told that next year that amount may double. This would put him out of business and also put another eight people out of work in my community.

Cars and trucks are not luxuries in Sault Ste. Marie; they are a necessity. Many residents have told me of insurance companies cancelling or refusing to renew insurance policies. They have told me about discriminatory rate increases. I have heard about long delays in receiving compensation, and there have been far too many unfair settlements for accident victims. It truly is highway robbery.

Private insurance companies say they must increase rates so that they can recover their lost profits. The truth is that their profits have never been greater. Last year, the private insurance companies in Canada recorded a net profit of over \$1 billion, their highest ever. The biggest portion of that business is the auto insurance business and, in fact, most of it is in Ontario, because we know that auto insurance is not in the hands of the private insurers in the three western provinces.

I and my colleagues in this Legislature have been urging the government, and we want to continue to urge it, to set up a driver-owned auto insurance plan in Ontario. They continue to refuse to even study the possibility. They are willing to travel around the world to Switzerland and other sites in western Europe, but they refuse

to go to the western provinces to see a plan that truly does reduce the rates compared to what we are paying in Ontario. You would save anywhere from 20 per cent to 75 per cent on your premium if Ontario had a driver-owned auto insurance plan. It is the real low-cost alternative to private insurance highway robbery.

The driver-owned public auto insurance plans introduced by New Democratic governments in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have rates far lower than those charged by private insurers in Ontario. Here are some typical savings: \$1,500 for a good male driver aged 21; \$500 for a 40-year-old who has had a minor accident; \$300 for a 21-year-old woman with a small car; \$150 for a man aged 30 who has a new car; and \$100 for a woman in her 60s who drives an older car.

Over the last three years, premiums in British Columbia have not changed; in Manitoba, they have gone up by a total of six per cent; and in Saskatchewan, premiums have actually fallen by seven per cent over the three years. But in Ontario premiums have increased by, on average, 45 per cent over the same period.

Driver-owned insurance has proved to be more efficient than private auto insurance. For instance, driver-owned plans spend only 21 per cent of premiums on administration costs. Private insurance companies spend 41 per cent, double the administrative costs of the government plans in the western provinces.

How insurance premiums paid by Ontario motorists are used is determined mainly by foreign companies. Not only would a driver-owned plan leave more money in our pockets because of lower rates, but it would also keep our premiums working for us right here in Ontario. The government opposes a driver-owned auto insurance plan, so we have to keep fighting for such a plan. From what the people of Ontario have been telling me about their increasing insurance rates, the need has never been greater.

Yesterday, I talked briefly about the responses I have gotten from recent questionnaires on the issue of auto insurance. I mentioned the fact that on the most recent one I have had nearly three times as many returns of questionnaires compared to any previous questionnaire I had sent out to my constituents in Sault Ste. Marie, a total of more than 2,000 returns.

Of those, more than 1,500 requested that we send more information on this issue of auto insurance and how the plans would work in Ontario if we adopted the kind of system that currently exists in British Columbia, Saskatche-

wan or Manitoba. I had the opportunity to read a few of the comments of some of the individuals of my community and I would like to go through a few others. They illustrate the kind of reaction we, as members of this Legislature, are getting on this important issue and why it is such a high priority that we will continue to pursue it within the New Democratic Party, and we would strongly advise the minister to look at it seriously for a change.

I have a note here from Pauline Tomas: "I do not know what a driver-owned auto insurance plan would consist of. Please send information. I do know that auto insurance rates are ridiculous," with emphasis on "ridiculous."

From Ronald Roussel: "Keep up the good work, and please keep on pushing to get the car insurance rates down. In Ontario, as you know, it is against the law to drive without insurance. The insurance companies have taken advantage of the situation and have been killing us with their high rates ever since."

From Mario Caruso, "I personally believe that the government should run both pensions and auto insurance."

From Mr. Zulak, "I am from the west and would like to see government insurance at a reasonable rate that people can afford."

From Michael Waddell, "How long would it take before the driver-owned auto insurance plan is implemented in Ontario?" It would not take very long under New Democratic government administration, but I do not know when this minister is going to open his eyes and look at the true situation in this country and where reasonable rates can be found.

From Mr. St-Jules, "It would be a blessing to get driver-owned insurance to be law."

From John Gorges: "I would like to see government insurance. The present system is like dictatorship. Ask Gilles Pouliot"—my colleague—"about my case. I believe Kwinter and Weir just cater to the big companies. To me, it is contrary to what I spent five years fighting for."

1510

From Mr. Daoust: "Let's get some action on this driver-owned insurance program."

From Mr. Borgogelli: "I am very concerned about the rapid increase in insurance rates."

From Marco Bressar: "I am definitely sure that Ontario should have driver-owned auto insurance. I am 19 years of age and I own my own car and I am paying extremely high insurance premiums. I do not understand why, because I have a clean record. So I would like to see a change in insurance."

One of the most disgusting practices in the insurance business in Ontario is the age discrimination factor. There is absolutely no justification for discriminating insurance rates based on age, sex or marital status. The only issue that should be addressed is a driver's record. It is understood that a driver who has a bad driving record and has had convictions of either causing accidents or getting driving infractions and points against his driver's record should be paying a premium on his insurance, but for a person with a clean driving record, there is absolutely no justification for rates three, four and five times as high as what a driver would pay if he were over age 25 compared to under age 25.

Another comment, from Theresa Wing: "Car insurance is out of this world\$ They have something out west that seems to work for all who own cars and trucks."

From Christiane Veldt: "I would like very much to see the driver-owned auto insurance, because as you have said, it is much cheaper. It would help tremendously on families who have a hard time making ends meet."

The cost of insurance is truly a significant one. We have talked many times about the discrimination in terms of gasoline prices in northern Ontario and the higher costs of operating a vehicle in the north compared to southern Ontario because of those high gasoline prices, but in fact for many the premium they are paying for auto insurance is even greater than that.

For families with young drivers, in many cases paying premiums of over \$2,000 a year, they are paying the equivalent of \$40 a week just for their auto insurance. A worker who needs his car to get to work every day is paying \$8 a day in his auto insurance premium just to be able to drive his car to work; in other words, \$1 an hour. Out of the wage he is making, \$1 an hour may be going simply for the purpose of insurance on the vehicle he is driving in order to get back and forth to work. I think that is truly outrageous.

I have many more comments here as well, one in terms of a specific figure from Mr. and Mrs. McCaig: "Something has to be done regarding car insurance. Ours has gone up approximately \$175 in one year, same coverage, no accidents or fines. This is a big ripoff and we are just making people rich."

Another one, from Jerry Lorenzo: "It's a shame to pay the high prices for auto insurance. These companies are ripping off every person that drives in Ontario. We have two cars, which is a must, as both my wife and myself work. We are paying over \$1,100 for coverage (no tickets

and no claims). This is absurd! Keep up the good work.... Please feel free to put up an NDP sign on my property for any election."

We are getting to them. Those guys had better get on side on this thing as well, if they know what is good for them.

We have comments that go on and on about this issue. Most recently, I sent out another newsletter in which I asked people to send back examples of cases where they have been ripped off. We have received very few of them back so far. I understand there are hundreds of them down in the post office here at Queen's Park. The staff is having some difficulty in sorting through the number of returns. I look forward to seeing those as well, but I have received several of them to this point.

This one is from a Mrs. Spina: "Have had no claims, still I had to pay nearly \$50 more for the next six months." That is a case where the legislation that we are addressing today is supposed to be putting a freeze on the rates; but we know there is no freeze, the rates are still going up.

This legislation is totally ineffectual. We have the proclaimed freeze, which is not a freeze; we have the proclamation from the minister of a cap on rates, which is in fact no cap whatsoever; and we have the proclamation of rollbacks of 10 per cent on rates for certain types of drivers, which in fact has not happened. There is no rollback going on. The drivers have been finding out as they have been getting their insurance renewed over the last couple of months that in fact the actions being taken by this government have no effect in reality and that the drivers are not benefiting. In fact, the initiative of the government is hurting them much more than it has helped them.

I have another example here: "If I have two cars, my son can be insured for \$700 per year. If he was to get his own car in his name, the insurance would start at \$1,200 per year. He also has driver education. The insurance companies are forcing people to be deceitful in their dealings, with the child's car being put in the parent's name. I feel there should be breaks for good driving without punishing the younger drivers so drastically."

Another specific example: "In 1985, September, I hit a parked truck avoiding some children. There was no damage to the truck, only to my car. The woman called the cops. I was charged with careless driving, plus a \$150 fine. I have never had a parking ticket, accident or any other driving violation. I am 33 years old and I have been driving since I was 17.

"My insurance went from \$300 a year to \$2,000. I am in the same insurance bracket as drunks, dangerous drivers and those with bad records. I don't feel that I should have to pay this kind of insurance for a first offence that was truly unavoidable. Please look into the government insurance on my behalf as well as the others who are getting 'ripped off.'"

With that final comment, I hope we will take action on this bill to ensure that it is either changed drastically or withdrawn by the minister so we can in fact implement something that will truly work in this province and benefit all the drivers of Ontario. The minister would be wise to look seriously at what he is proposing and to go back and redraft something that has some teeth in it and will provide some benefits for the people of this province.

1520

Mr. Ashe: I find it difficult to actually say anything very positive about this piece of legislation other than to initially, of course, indicate that personally I do not, and this party does not, subscribe to the government-can-do-everything-better principle as espoused by the socialist party.

We all know that in the long term, the short term, or the medium term, that is not true. There is no doubt you can pick out specific, isolated, narrow, pointed examples of places and particular situations where an insurance policy out west can be cheaper than in Ontario. There is no doubt about that at all.

The long and the short of it is those of us who have been around here or have been involved in any level of government long enough know that in the long haul government can do very little—very little—cheaper and more economically than the private sector can with the competitive situation out there.

There is no doubt the insurance industry has a problem—a perception problem, as much as anything—in the last few years. To be very honest, they have created part of that problem themselves, so I guess to some degree they have to get out of it. They have an image problem and they have not been able to get across the facts. The facts, as the New Democratic Party sees them, are obviously quite a bit different from the real facts.

I do not know how any so-called honourable members can stand up in this chamber and spout some of the numbers they spout about the profits made by the insurance business in Canada, let alone in Ontario, in the last few years, when the honourable members must know, if they have got

even an ounce, a quarter ounce of a brain, that they are putting out numbers that at the very least are tainted, are twisted and are inaccurate.

I would never use the words that would get me moved out of here, Mr. Speaker, but I think you know what I am saying even though I put it in an appropriate way.

Having said that I do not agree with government insurance, I do agree that something has to be done. I think one of the suggestions already put forth by this party even before the minister talked about it, of having a rate review agency, an approval agency, is appropriate. I think all parts of the equation will be better served by that kind of situation, where the companies will have to come forth to a tribunal and board to justify any change in their rates. From their point of view, they will be able to have audited by that board whether they are making money and the areas in which they are or are not making money. I think it will clear the air for the consumer, to know that is the case. Obviously and ultimately, hopefully everybody will be better served.

The other issues being investigated and looked into at this time, the tort system, etc., hopefully will all be part of the solution. If I have a criticism of this government and of this minister in that regard, it is the time it has taken. We have been pointing out for the last year and a half that there were issues and problems in the general overall liability field, which included, of course, insurance liability.

Unfortunately, the minister took an awfully long time to act and to start looking into the issue. I cannot understand, for example, why we have not already got legislation before us to consider, setting up the board that will look at and examine rates.

I think there are other issues and other problems that can be resolved in a rational way by the private sector. I think it is true they have to re-examine the whole principle of how underwriting takes place. I do agree that not all drivers, just because they are under 25 years of age, are bad drivers. Unfortunately, in a statistical sense, the industry can say: "But look at the claims we pay out in that group. Look at the amount of tickets and traffic incidents they are involved in, in that group." Statistically, there is no doubt they are right.

I think we have to change the whole principle of how underwriting is done on that group of people or, as far as that goes, on any group of citizens which takes the opportunity and the privilege—and it is a privilege—to drive an automobile. It is not a right, it is a privilege;

because there are a lot of lives involved besides the driver's; and of course the liability question and the cost of any accident, etc., are borne ultimately by all. When one thinks of the cost of the health care system that we all pay for, it is not a right, it is a privilege.

Mr. McClellan: It is a privilege?

Mr. Ashe: Do I hear an echo down there? It seems to me that we were rather quiet when we heard some of the diatribe coming from them before. I wish they would offer the same courtesy for a change.

In any event, part of the problem and part of the principle that has to be changed on the part of the insurance companies is not presuming that people are bad drivers just because they fall into a particular category. I think we have to get back to the straight principle of common law that suggests you are innocent until it is shown by your driving record that you are in fact guilty. In that way, there can be an enticement and an encouragement for drivers of all ages possibly to respect the law more in terms of their driving habits and hopefully to become better drivers.

I know part of the argument the other way when you discuss the pros and cons of no-fault. Those who are opposed to it suggest that with no-fault people will not care. If you have the other opportunity, of presuming innocence until guilt is shown in driving records or in accident records, I think there is a lot of enticement there. Similarly, I personally do not subscribe to the meat chart principle that a complete no-fault would put into effect. In my view, a partial no-fault with limits and so on and still with the opportunity for recourse to the courts is the way to go.

Back more specifically to Bill 56, if there is one initial problem right on the cover of this bill, it is probably the title. I would like to give it a new title. I would enact Bill 56 to read as follows, "An Act to give the Impression that Automobile Insurance Rates are Frozen, at least until after the Next Election." As proposed by the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Kwinter), effectively that is what this charade is all about.

I have tried to make it abundantly clear that I do not think the answer to our problem is that which is espoused by the third party, but this is not the answer either. This has tried to give the impression to people, to electors, consumers and drivers, that any bill they received on or after April 23, 1987, would be no higher than before. That is the general impression it was meant to give.

Frankly, that is the impression that is out there. All you have to do is go to your constituency office each day and see the queries about it. All you have to do is touch base with any of the brokers or insurance companies that are direct underwriters and they will tell you that is what their consumers think this bill is all about.

In fact, we know that is not what it is all about at all. To freeze the rates as of April 23 and give the impression that this is what it is, is a charade. This bill is suggesting that companies cannot further raise their categorized rates after April 23, with the full knowledge that most companies had a rate change effective in January for policies coming due early in the year. In February, most of the board companies that underwrite most of the automobile insurance in this province set their rate categories for most of the rest of the year 1987.

It really did not make any difference at all whether your premium came due in January, March or July. If the category you fall into was raised 15 per cent by a decision made by the board companies in February, the 15 per cent increase goes ahead. All this says is that on or after April 24, they cannot decide to add on another five per cent.

That is an absolute joke because it does not happen that much in any year. I think there have been occasions where there have been small further adjustments laid on in the year. I suppose you could say that this may be some small sampling of a savings for some drivers. This bill has done nothing except cause an awful lot more contacts by letter and by telephone at our constituency offices, and that is going to continue to grow as the year goes on, as people get their renewals and find they are higher than last year. That is not what the bill says, but there is no doubt that was the implication of what it meant and that is not what it says at all.

As far as the two categories that were particularly identified are concerned, males under 25 and taxi drivers, to give them a 10 per cent discount is again a joke. You have a situation where these two categories had rate increases that were already approved early in the year. I suggest that probably nine times out of 10, with the 10 per cent rate reduction they would still end up with an actual rate increase on the premium renewal in 1987.

1530

I suppose the one consolation in this bill is that if it drags on long enough, maybe it will be repealed before it happens. If we look at section 9, this act is repealed on the earlier of December

31, 1987, and a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor. I presume that date of proclamation by the Lieutenant Governor, clause 9(b), will become appropriate and effective if the minister ever gets around to setting up his insurance rate review board and gets it operative. Then this bill could be repealed.

To have it go into force is really a misdirection of justice. To not have it go into force—I am not quite sure which is worse, frankly. It does not do anything. I do not know that it does any great harm but it does not do anything. Once again, I think the answers are out there to solve the problems. It will not happen overnight. Insurance companies, rightly or wrongly, for all the right or wrong reasons that we can debate another day, have been losing money in the auto business, particularly in Ontario. We have to get at the source of these problems, and this so-called freeze is not getting at the source of these problems at all.

Again, it is an act to give the impression that automobile insurance rates are frozen, at least until after the next election. Seeing that we did not have a spring election, which was undoubtedly anticipated by the minister when he introduced this bill, hopefully this will die a death all by itself before it ever becomes law.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Polsinelli): Questions or comments on remarks of the member for Durham West?

Mr. McClellan: The member for Durham West described the bill as a charade. He said the title of the bill should be changed. I believe he said this was an act to create the impression of controlling temporarily. He described it as a hoax. He implied that it was a fraud and a fake, that its simple and sole exclusive purpose was not to protect consumers but to protect the Liberal Party until such time as it can get past an election, that it will not cap automobile premiums, that it will not protect consumers, that it will not do anything the Liberal Party says it will do and that it is a cynical exercise in pre-election manipulation of the voters.

My question to the member for Durham West is this: since I agree with everything he said in his description of the bill, that it is a fraud, that it is a fake, that it is a hoax and that it is designed to permit the Liberal Party to get through an election with a minimum of damage, why on earth is the Conservative Party prepared to vote for this bill?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would like to add just one additional question to that of my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). In

addition to why the member for Durham West is voting for the bill, I would like to know why his leader took credit for announcing or demanding this type of legislation or this bill two weeks before the government announced this policy.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I would like to know why the member for Durham West contends that the cases where the insurance rates would be lower under a public plan compared to here are only isolated cases when the governments in two of the provinces—they are not New Democratic governments at this time, but the Conservative and Social Credit governments in Saskatchewan and British Columbia—have been in power for a good period of time but have taken no action whatsoever to change back to a private insurance operation in those provinces. If the benefits are only isolated cases, and not for the general public as a whole as our evidence shows they are, why have those governments not abandoned their public auto insurance plans and gone back to the private insurance industry that the member wants to continue to live with?

Mr. Ashe: I do not back down from any of the descriptions I have given of this bill. That is for sure. Why would we support it? I also ended up by saying I do not think it really does any harm, even though I do not think it does anything, period. If anything happens on it, even if it is only minute, it is better than nothing.

As to what our leader suggested two weeks before, I think two issues are being confused here. Before this piece of legislation was introduced, we did suggest the establishment of the rate review process, the rate review board, but it had nothing to do with what has come out in this legislation, the so-called rate freeze.

As far as the western provinces are concerned, frankly, once you have spent a pile of money to set something up, there is no doubt it is a lot more difficult to get out of something than it is to get into it. I presume that is part of the answer out west.

When I say individual and isolated instances, I am not saying that they are not cumulatively somewhat substantive in nature. What I am saying is that overall, if somebody benefits, somebody still ends up having to pay somewhere along the line. Whether it is the consumer in his rates or, directly or indirectly, the taxpayer at large, the moneys have to come from somewhere. Somewhere along the line that includes paying the deficits that happen to be accruing, even in the past year, to one or more of those situations out west. Dollars still have to come from somewhere and if the consumer does not

pay the consolidated revenue fund pays. That in itself is a charade on the taxpayers.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr. Mackenzie: My remarks on this topic will be brief, but I do want to indicate very clearly that I do not and we will not support Bill 56, the minister's bill. I really wonder why the minister brought it in. It is little more than a bit of a con job because it does not do what he says it will do.

Most people will not see any kind of control on their rates. There will be the two per cent increase in the period allowed that my colleague has outlined forcibly and effectively in this House. It is not doing a job in terms of the 10 per cent reduction for most of the young drivers or cabbies. It is simply an excuse to try to stall off the inevitable or maybe get the minister over a period of time until he sees whether he can go to the public and put down this upstart of public auto insurance altogether.

I do not want to spend a lot of time responding to my colleague on the Tory bench but he knows it is not accurate in terms of the subsidization of the plans out west. He knows that very clearly; I do not know why he keeps repeating it.

Few issues have received as much public reaction in the past year, I guess, as the issue of automobile insurance. It is coming not only from the people who are getting hit with substantial increases in their premiums, but also from a number of other organizations; and it is coming, surprisingly enough, from a number of the brokers. Some information that I am sure has caused some concern if it has not embarrassed the minister in this House is information that comes to me now about every second week, in the proverbial brown paper bag, and I know who it is coming from: some well-respected brokers who have been in the business in my town for more than 25 years. It is where we got the letter that went out outlining some of the grey areas.

I took the trouble to go and visit with some of these brokers. I found out they themselves were discouraged, disheartened and perturbed at the action of the insurance companies and the instructions they were getting as to what they could and could not place with the insurance companies in terms of auto insurance.

One of the things that really got me was a list of the reasons why you would go to the Facility Association or why you would not get a preferred rate or why the companies did not want to take it. It is not only the young drivers; it is also people, as has been pointed out in this House, who have not driven for two years and people who have not

had an accident but have had as few as three minor traffic violations.

To this day, the one that still gets me, and the one that disturbed a couple of the brokers I talked to, was that heaven help you if you happen to be living common law, unless you have been living common law for more than five years and have a child. Then I guess you are responsible enough to get your insurance at whatever the so-called marketplace rate is. Otherwise, you are Facility insurance.

1540

I do not know why we have put up with this kind of dishonesty as long as we have. I think the auto insurance industry has been one of the most dishonest industries in this country. It seems to me we have to accept that what is really at stake, and I do not think there is any question about it, is the large amount of capital that is involved in the premiums, the investment income and the control of it and what you can do with that income.

I say to my Conservative colleagues that it is very clear that whether or not you like the idea of public auto insurance or driver-owned auto insurance in principle, in the provinces that have it you can get a much better answer in a public plan where they have to produce the results and where you can get the figures each and every year. You can see what they are doing with the money and how they use the investment capital in terms of the plan. That is what it is for, not to line somebody's pocket or to cover something else.

The other thing that bothers me about this issue and the kind of stalling tactics the minister is using with his bill—as I said, in my opinion, it is a very misleading if not dishonest bill—is what it is doing and what is happening as well in the insurance industry in terms of people's claims.

How many times has the minister had people tell him over the past few months that the smartest thing to do—many of the insurance companies are doing this as well—is not to report an accident? “Unless the figures are astronomical, cover it yourself. Do not go the route of reporting it because you know what it is going to cost you.” What is happening is that it is undermining the very principle of insurance, which is one I do not reject on any philosophical grounds. I do not know how many people I have had tell me in the last couple of years that they had an accident where normally they would have gone to the insurance company, but instead they tried to work out some kind of deal. Yet they all feel, as I think all of us do, that they have to carry insurance on their automobiles, as they carry

other kinds of insurance, because of the potential costs to them.

So here we have people buying and paying for a product and then being led into the belief, widespread now in Ontario, that if there is any way they can cover that cost—you continue paying your premiums, of course, but you cover the cost of the accident in some private deal. Better still, you do not let the authorities know because it might get back to somebody and you would pay the price of it. I think this is one of the most dangerous and dishonest things that is happening in Ontario.

I noticed with interest in a letter from Co-operators—I just have a couple of more remarks—that in part of its campaign it was talking about a questionnaire it was sending out to people and how marvellous it was that it had received over 2,700 coupons back to date. That is going back a couple of months. They may be up to 5,000 or 10,000 by now; I do not know. I want the members to know that in my riding we raised it in a questionnaire. I have never had more than 1,100 responses; 1,131 is the highest in 12 years in this House. I am now past 2,600, very close to 2,700, and they are still coming in. There are a few more here today. I want the minister to know that the comments have been precise and strong and 87.7 per cent have said, "Go with the public plan." Only 5.6 per cent said no.

I grant the inaccuracy of private polls but the question was very clear, "What do you want?" They know darned well what they do not want. Only 6.7 per cent suggested they did not know. We might even have broken a few of those. I suggest to the minister that 90 per cent of the people of Ontario are saying this is the kind of answer they want.

I reject totally, as do all my colleagues, the comments we occasionally get from the Liberal side, and from the Tory benches as well, about these untrue horror stories. I am not going to go into them. I have used some case examples in previous debate in this House. I took out the past four months; there are case sheets. All members of this House know in detail what they are about, some of the more obvious and outlandish problems people in my riding are having with insurance. These are just in the past few months. As I say, it does not just include calls.

I pulled out as well—I did not count them; there are probably 40 or 50 in that pile alone—a few of the letters about auto insurance people attached to the 2,600 responses I am telling the minister I have had in my riding. They are here. He should read some of the responses about auto insurance,

what people are paying and the rip-off it is in Ontario.

I am simply saying to the minister very clearly that his bill should be withdrawn. If it is not, it should be defeated in this House and I hope there is enough guts in the Tory party to stand up with us and see that it is defeated. What he should bring in is proper driver-owned automobile insurance in Ontario, which is long overdue and which he is not going to be able to stop.

Mr. Wildman: I enter this debate with the knowledge that this is one of the leading issues, if not the leading issue, in Ontario today. Like my friend the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), I sent out a questionnaire recently. I think members realize that my riding is not a large one in population. It is large in area but in population it is one of the smallest in Ontario. Normally from my questionnaires, I get in the range of between 300 and 500 returns. This time I received between 1,000 and 1,500 returns and they are still coming in.

Well over 1,200 indicated they were dissatisfied with the current insurance system for automobiles in this province and that they wished to have a driver-owned plan or a plan that would be operated in the public sector and would eliminate a number of the problems and difficulties people face with the current private auto insurance industry and also make it difficult for people to be able to afford to obtain the insurance we all recognize we need.

I would like to go into some of the problems that have been raised with me by people in my constituency; but before I do, I want to say quite clearly that I cannot accept the approach of this minister in saying, basically, that he wants some sort of regulatory system that would make it possible for people to appeal when they feel they have been unjustly treated and that would somehow try to control, in a haphazard way, the cost of insurance premiums.

When the minister first made his statement this spring, the impression was given that we were going to have a freeze on insurance premiums in this province. The minister made it quite clear subsequently that he did not really mean a freeze. First we had a freeze and then we did not have a freeze. He later said that he was trying to cap insurance rates. In other words, when he said that, it seemed that as of the date—I think it was April 23 when he made his statement—the rates current at that time would be capped and no one would have to pay more than the rate as of that date. If a person renewed his or her insurance last year, say in May 1986, and thus had to renew

again this year in May 1987, he would have to pay the increase from May 1986 to April 23, 1987, but it would be capped at that.

Subsequently, the minister admitted in the House he was not really talking about a cap for individual drivers on their individual premiums but rather a cap on the class of driver or the group of driver. It became evident that we no longer had a cap, that in fact people would be paying substantially more even with his so-called cap than they would have had to pay if there had been a freeze.

Also, the minister indicated he was calling for a rollback of 10 per cent on the premiums paid by young people and people who drive taxicabs. Obviously, the people who are suffering the most in the current system are those people who are under the age of 25, male and unmarried, and those people who are in the commercial sector and who are driving cabs, limos, buses and so on. It is obvious that something should have been done to alleviate the problems those drivers are facing.

1550

When we started to analyse what this so-called rollback meant, we found that in fact it was not a rollback. Just as it has not been a freeze or a cap, it was not a rollback. What it meant was that once the premiums were levelled as of April 23, 1987, the insurance company would have to calculate the increase from the previous year's renewal till April 23, 1987. Then the insurance company would be able to refund to the young driver or the taxicab driver 10 per cent of the increase—not 10 per cent of the premium he had paid before, but 10 per cent of the increased premium, the overall cost of the new higher-cost premium. In fact, it was not a rollback; it was simply a slightly lower increase in the premium.

We had a freeze that was not a freeze, we then had a cap that was not a cap and we then had a rollback that was not a rollback. In fact, this minister has attempted to respond to the very effective campaign waged by the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) that we need to do something about the horrendous increases and the abuses drivers are facing when they have to renew their policies in this province. He has brought example after example before the House and has presented them to the minister and his officials.

This minister has said, "We have to do something." The government has said: "We had better do something about insurance. It has become a hot issue and we had better be seen to be doing something." They have made an-

nouncements and they have brought in legislation which purports to regulate and to cap, but in fact it does not change anything substantially, because the minister himself has admitted that the insurance companies need increases. He has agreed with the insurance lobby when it has said it is losing money on automobile insurance.

I find it interesting, having been in this House for some time and having observed free enterprisers on the government benches from time to time over the last number of years, that a private enterprise that is losing money in a business and says it is losing millions of dollars every year wants to remain in that business.

It does not seem to me that it is very smart business to say: "We are losing money. We are losing millions of dollars, but we want to stay in the business. We do not want anybody else to take it over. We want to keep on losing money." The minister, by proposing his legislation, has said to the private insurers: "I understand you are losing money. I understand you want to stay in the business and I am going to guarantee that you will get increases, so you will no longer be losing money."

This is a minister who claims to be the minister of consumer protection in this province. It appears from the legislation that is being proposed and the statements of the minister in this House that in fact the minister is more concerned with protecting the insurance companies than the drivers and the people who pay for the premiums in this province.

Over the last number of months, I have been contacted by many constituents about the crises they are facing with their insurance premiums and the problems they face with the insurance companies. I would just like to bring a number of those illustrations to the floor of the House today.

I have one here where a constituent from the Sault Ste. Marie area contacted me because her son was having a terrible time getting insurance. This did not just affect the son, but it affected his parents as well. The insurance company said to this family that it would not insure the son, the reason being that he had had an accident. He had hit a parked car and had been fined by the court, and the insurance company concluded he was a serious risk and did not want to insure him. Since the son had been driving the parents' car, the insurance company not only said it no longer wanted to insure him but also made it a stipulation that if it was going to continue to insure the parents on that vehicle, the son who had been involved in the accident with the family car would have to turn in his driver's licence to

the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

They would not even consider insuring him; and not only him, they would not consider insuring his parents if he did not turn in his licence. They did not just ask for a commitment that he would not drive the car—I suppose they could have asked that he not even drive it as a casual driver—but they also said, “He cannot even have an automobile driver’s licence or we will not give him any insurance and we will not give the parents any insurance.”

On top of that, the insurance company stated that if he agreed to turn in his licence, it would give insurance to the parents, but the premium was quoted at more than \$2,000 a year because the vehicle had been involved in an accident. Subsequently, this family did get insurance at a much lower rate, but it was still substantially more than it paid the last year. I just raise this as an example of the kinds of things insurance companies do that hurt the consumers of this province.

I also have an example of a constituent of my colleague the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) who contacted my office. I will admit this gentleman was not an exemplary driver. He had three speeding tickets in 1986 and one speeding ticket in 1985. He drove a 1983 Firebird. I understand they are referred to as muscle cars. He had insurance rates quoted from a number of companies ranging from \$1,335 to \$1,800. He also owned a 1981 General Motors van and he had quotes for that vehicle ranging from \$1,667 to \$2,000. Last year, he paid \$360 for six months’ coverage for the Firebird and \$430 for one year’s coverage for the van, so we can see the increases he was being expected to pay because of an admittedly poor driving record.

I do not debate that an individual who has had a speeding ticket should pay more because that individual is a higher risk. There is no question about that. But I do question an increase from \$430 to \$2,000 or from \$360 for six months to about \$900 for six months. It just does not seem reasonable to me.

I was also contacted by a constituent who wrote to me in anger, anger expressed not towards me but towards the insurance situation and the problems his son was facing. His son is 22 years old. He is not an unmarried person. He is married and has a child. He has had a licence for two years with a clean record. He was quoted more than \$1,000 a year for an automobile insurance premium.

The father wrote to me. He said in his letter that he did not really expect I could do anything about this situation. As a matter of fact, I think this individual even accepted the fact that unmarried males under the age of 25 might be requested to pay a lot. I do not agree with that, but this individual seemed to think that might be acceptable. But he resented the fact that his son, who is not an adolescent, who in fact is married, has a child, is working and has a clean driving record, should be required to pay \$1,000 a year for insurance.

1600

Obviously, the problem this young man faced was simply that he had only had a licence for two years even though he was 22 years old. Suppose he had gotten his licence when he was 16 and had a clean driving record for the years between age 16 and age 22; he might not have faced as high a premium. We just see these kinds of problems.

I have a number of other individual problems, but I will not bore the House with them. I would like to point out, though, it is not just individuals who face these horrendous problems and increases in insurance premiums, but also small businessmen. I have been contacted by a number of truck drivers and owners of small fleets of trucks who have faced enormous increases, somewhere in the neighbourhood of 35 per cent to 40 per cent this year, for their insurance. Again, these are individuals who have not had accidents and their drivers have not had accidents, but they are just having to pay more.

I was also contacted by a number of other types of businessmen. One is a gentleman who owns a number of school buses. This individual was faced with quotes this year of increases of approximately 64 per cent or 65 per cent from one company. The lowest quote he could obtain was in the neighbourhood of a 30 per cent increase; the highest he was quoted was 75 per cent. This is a gentleman who has operated his busing company for 15 years, never had a claim and had always been insured by the same company, until this year.

I was also contacted by an airline limousine company, I guess because from time to time I use their services to travel between Queen’s Park and the airport. The gentleman was so angry he decided to call me. He pointed out that in January 1985 he paid \$1,900 insurance for \$1,000 deductible collision coverage, including \$2 million liability. In January 1986, this gentleman, who owned a 1985 Lincoln Continental at the time, paid \$2,500 for the same coverage. In January 1987, when he had purchased a 1987

Cadillac, he was quoted, and had to pay, a \$3,900 premium for \$2,500 deductible collision coverage.

In other words, he had to pay more than double what he paid in January 1985, for less coverage. Again, this gentleman has never had an accident and has not had any speeding tickets. He says he is getting off easier. He drives about 200,000 kilometres a year, has never had any tickets, no accidents; he has pointed to a number of other limousine drivers who have less than perfect driving records who are paying from \$4,900 to \$5,900 annually, this year, for insurance.

We indeed have a crisis in what insurance companies are demanding that consumers pay for the protection we all recognize they need. It is unfortunate that we do not have a minister and a government prepared to meet this crisis and to do something about it. Instead, we have a government that wants to talk about it, to use rhetoric to persuade the public it is responding to what is perceived generally, by people who support all political parties, by people across the political and economic spectrum, as a crisis. They say they are responding, but how do they respond? They respond with legislation that is not going to protect the consumer, that is going to mean the consumer pays more and will continue to pay more and that is in fact going to increase the revenues going to the insurance companies.

This is unacceptable legislation. It is unfortunate that the minister has only half heard. He has heard the problems raised by the member for Welland-Thorold and he has heard the problems raised by the public in general; but he has not heard what the member for Welland-Thorold and this party have been proposing and what the people have been demanding as a solution.

We need a driver-owned insurance plan where the drivers will control the coverage and the premiums, where premiums will be based on individuals' driving records rather than their age, sex or marital status and where we will not have the profit motive resulting in a ripoff of the drivers of this province. In fact, drivers will be covered at cost and we will have decent insurance premiums with good coverage for everyone who drives in Ontario.

Mr. Philip: I rise to participate in this debate. I find it somewhat ironic that this bill is called An Act to control temporarily Automobile Insurance Rates in Ontario. For the last couple of years, we have been bringing to the minister's attention over and over again the crisis of the public at the hands of the large automobile insurance companies. What we have had is a litany of responses

by the Liberal Minister of Financial Institutions, responding to all the criticisms of the high premiums charged to Ontario motorists by saying that they were in fact justified. Indeed, he insisted that the companies were actually experiencing losses.

If the minister was correct in his analysis that these poor companies were experiencing losses, then why on earth would the minister want to bring in a bureaucratic bill like this to somehow try to control the automobile insurance rates? Surely if these poor companies are losing money, why would he want to control them? If there was not a problem, as the minister said, if in fact these companies were losing money, then why is it necessary for him to try to control those rates?

Of course, the fact is that the minister is wrong; there is a problem. So he brings in a bill, the title of which is absolutely misleading. My colleague the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) gave a history of the litany of the various schemes the minister has proposed. He proposed the freeze that was not a freeze, he proposed controls that are not controls, and here we have in this bill an attempt, as he says, to somehow control profits, control rates of companies that are supposedly losing money by the minister's own words.

The minister tries to have it both ways. On one hand he tries to act as an apologist for the insurance companies and say these poor companies are losing money. If that is the case, why is he bringing in legislation? To help them lose more money? That just does not make any sense.

The insurance companies try to justify their increases by talking about rising claims. We have seen the ads by the Insurance Bureau of Canada running on TV at a cost of more than \$7,000 a day to tell you that the cost of your insurance is driven up by what it costs to insure you and nothing more. Of course, if you look at that, you see exactly what a lie it is that the insurance companies are purporting on TV.

Indeed, when my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold asked the minister, who is also responsible for business practices and can lay charges for untruthful statements in advertising, he simply said, "It is your opinion versus theirs."

1610

I guess you have to ask, what is the truth? Is it just claims for bodily injury and property damage that are causing higher rates? Are the insurance companies really posting losses? What is the real story on auto insurance company costs and how much are we to expect to save under public auto insurance?

First, if we look at the relationship between the claims and the premiums, we might look to British Columbia. In its latest annual information guide published in January, the Insurance Bureau of Canada noted that auto insurance claims grew much more rapidly than premiums during the year 1985. That is true, but in that year it was also true that the premiums taken in by the industry exceeded the claims it paid out by not less than \$905 million. When we look a little more closely at British Columbia's program and its published figures, it is revealed that the growth of the premiums handily outstripped the growth of the claims over five years from 1981 to 1985, and that while claims grew over the whole period by \$900 million, the premiums collected increased by well over \$1.3 billion.

Clearly, the industry is not telling the whole truth when it highlights increased claims and yet neglects to mention increased premiums. It is spending nearly \$1 million. If you look at where that \$1 million is coming from, it is coming from the premiums each and every one of us in Ontario is paying for these ads that tell us how terrible it is and how much we are driving up our own auto insurance.

By the industry's own admission, the ads will cost over \$650,000 and that is on top of the more than \$300,000 it previously committed to newspaper ads.

Mr. Swart: That is only one set of ads.

Mr. Philip: That is only one set of ads, as my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold has pointed out.

If the companies are losing money, as the Liberal government contended until only a few months ago, why are these companies spending millions of dollars trying to defend their right to lose more money? It does not make any sense. If you owned a company, would you go out and say: "My goodness. My company is losing all kinds of money. Therefore, I should spend a lot more money to ensure that I can stay in this particular business and lose even more money." It does not make any sense whatsoever. There is a lack of logic there.

At some point, we have to look at what this government is trying to do. This bill is mistakenly called An Act to control temporarily Automobile Insurance Rates in Ontario and the word "temporarily" is the only truthful word in it. It does not control and it does not provide a freeze. It provides a cap as of April 23, 1987, but that is only in the schedule rates, not in what we will actually pay for our auto insurance after April 23, 1987. Thus, as of April 23, the increase in the

rates we will pay will be whatever the insurance companies have set as an increase up until that date. We have instances of some that have gone up by as much as 50 per cent.

Based on the statement of the superintendent of insurance in the newspapers of an average of two per cent a month increase over the last year, we can reasonably estimate, if the Superintendent of Insurance is correct, that the people of Ontario will be paying over \$400 million more for their insurance premiums this year, under this so-called protection the Liberals have brought in, than they did last year. Some protection.

Then what happens next year? If we look at this bill, it self-destructs in a year. Here is the Liberal government saying, "We are going to protect consumers." If there was ever something that could be examined under the Business Practices Act for false advertising, it is the name of this bill.

So we are going to so-called control. We are going to control it, so the insurance companies will only get another \$400 million more from the consumers this year. Then at the end of the year the bill self-destructs. Some protection.

What happens at the end of the year? The Liberals have an answer to that. They are setting up this so-called review board. We have seen what review boards have done. I remember the federal program of so-called prices review; we saw what that did to prices. All of us who have experienced those know exactly what happened. Wages were controlled; but were prices really controlled?

So we have a bureaucratic nightmare that has been set up. Only a Liberal could design this kind of thing; there will be wall-to-wall people falling over one another. The only ones who will profit by the whole thing will be the board.

One of the Toronto Sun columnists was right to say no other government could develop a more bureaucratic, sillier sort of review than this. It will not control prices. We know that. It will create a whole series of hoops and simply cost the taxpayers more and more money in creating more and more of a bureaucracy that simply will not work.

I find it interesting that in all of the gyrations the Liberals have gone through they have refused to go out and examine what is really happening in the real world of British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Why is it they are willing to go to Europe to examine their systems but are not willing to go right here in our own country to examine why the systems out west are working

on behalf of the consumer? One can only hypothesize that maybe the reason is they really are afraid they will find out what the answers are; that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and his friends at the golf club in London, the insurance companies, are not going to like what the answers are; that they are not going to like the problems of the Liberals being faced with those answers.

If we look at the problems in the present insurance industry, we see the problem of discrimination based on age. We look at the arbitrary cancellation and refusal to renew policies. We look at increases for frivolous reasons. We look at the penalizing of everybody in a family for one person's driving record. We find that new drivers, regardless of their age, are being charged prohibitive premiums. I had always thought a simple rule of justice is that one is innocent until proven guilty; but of course the insurance companies seem to work in reverse. Last, we see breaks in the coverage and the insurance companies simply cutting people off.

1620

If we look at the public companies things in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, we see that none of those are current problems in those systems. One has to wonder why this government is so reluctant to deal with the problem. Maybe it is that the insurance company executives will pay \$1,000 a plate to dine with the Premier, whereas the average consumer who operates a tow truck or a small business in Rexdale or who is a working-class person does not have \$1,000, he has paid out the \$1,000 to the insurance companies, or more than that, for his premium.

I find it interesting. It is not just the consumer who is being penalized. When I talk to brokers around the province and to brokers in my own riding, I see the discontent they are having, because they are on the front line, they are getting the abuse from the consumer. The consumer calls up and says, "My goodness, what the heck are you doing to me?" It is not the broker. The broker is the poor innocent fellow who is sitting there simply having to pass on the bad information, the bad news.

I had one consumer who was rightfully quite upset. He was with the same insurance company for some 24 years. This fellow is so law-abiding he has not lost one point. He never speeded. He assures me he did not even get a parking ticket.

He made three claims in a period of five years. Two were for breaking and entering, namely, that somebody had vandalized his car. The third was a claim where someone managed to slide

into his car on an icy day. His car was legally parked in front of his home. The total amount of those claims was in the vicinity of \$1,000 over five years.

Suddenly, he jumps into a new category. His insurance on his two cars went up \$1,200 a year. He said: "If I had known this, quite frankly, I would have paid for the damage myself. It is a lot better to pay out \$1,000 over five years than have my insurance premiums go up \$1,200 a year."

I have a letter here that shows exactly the kinds of problems faced, not only by me as an MPP but also by other MPPs. This is a letter addressed to the executive assistant to my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold.

"Please find enclosed a copy of a letter sent to me by one of my constituents. His insurance company is cancelling his auto insurance." The insurance company writes, "Thank you for your application to insure your vehicle with"—the name of the company. "We have reviewed your application and find that we are unable to continue to provide insurance at the rate originally quoted. Insurance rates are based on the risk presently, and we must obtain premium equal to the risk of each policy. Coverage as presently provided will cease effective 12:01 a.m. 15 days from the day following the date this letter is received at the post office to which it is addressed. Your refund of unused premium is enclosed."

That is interesting, because it is from the Liberal member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay).

Here is a member of the minister's own party who says, "There is a crisis in the auto insurance industry; one of my constituents is being ripped off," and yet the very member is not here in the House, nor have we heard any Liberal members stand up to speak in this debate.

Where are the Liberal members in this debate? I guess they do not want to speak because they know what a charade this bill is. They know it is in the self-interest of the insurance companies they are protecting. That is why they are not getting up to give a speech in this House.

Usually, the Liberal back-benchers, such as the the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer) over there, have the hacks in the Liberal back rooms prepare a written speech which they read, but they do not even consider it important enough to have at least a prepared set of apologetics for this dismal bill.

This bill does absolutely nothing for consumers. We have shown that. It is merely an attempt by the Liberals to get past the next election campaign and pretend they have done some-

thing, when they in fact have not done anything. It is a charade, but interestingly enough, as each month passes and their constituents receive their increases this year under the so-called protection of this bill, they will see what a lie this bill is and they will see the kind of charade the Liberal Party is parading in the form of so-called consumer legislation. I cannot support this kind of charade, and I certainly will not be voting for this bill, which creates nothing more than a bureaucracy and certainly does not protect the consumer.

Mr. McGuigan: I am not an expert on this subject, but I look at the preamble to the act and it says it is a temporary measure pending the establishment of the new board.

Mr. Hayes: Until the election.

Mr. McGuigan: I am trying to take it as I read it, and it says, "pending the establishment of the new board."

I agree that there are many things wrong with the insurance industry and that a new board is required. I will mention some of the things the board should look into.

I too have been visited by an insurance broker, a young chap from a family of insurance brokers. They have been in the business 75 years or more. He is the third generation of a very successful insurance family. He told me he would welcome a change in insurance because of the things going on.

If I can be bold enough to analyse it, as I see it, as a noninsurance person, there are some 250 companies involved in insurance, all competing in the same market. So you really have free enterprise running wild. I know something about free enterprise running wild because all my life I have dealt with chain stores. I know something about how these things can get out of order. I will just give an example.

Remember a few years ago in the early 1970s when the automobile companies were producing performance cars, and as each succeeding model came along each car had a little higher horsepower. We got to the point where we had cars with 455-cubic-inch engines in them, bigger than most truck engines, and they had four-barrel carburetors on them. They would pass anything on the road but a gas station. They would give you six or eight miles per gallon. So we had a free enterprise system that was running wild, with companies competing in the horsepower of the engines.

When safety and fuel prices became a factor, governments came along and put limits on these automobiles; they put on standards. The Americans did it before we did; they said that by a

certain date a certain average mileage had to be achieved. So we have seen a great improvement in automobiles since that time. They have downgraded the size of the motors, which were as high as 460 cubic inches. Some of them are now about 120 cubic inches. They give mileages ranging up to 40 miles per gallon, which is still pretty good performance. There is a place, and I support it, for government coming in and setting some standards. It seems to me that this board should come in and set the standards—

1630

Mr. Philip: Like the standards that were set in Wyda, when we lost \$3.5 million?

Mr. McGuigan: I am talking about new standards that are required; standards that have to be set—

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, if I may be excused by my colleague: Who has the carriage of this bill for the government? The minister has been absent for over an hour. Is that my understanding?

Mr. Offer: The minister has not been absent for over an hour. The minister has been called out to an important meeting at 4 p.m. and it is now 4:30 p.m. Since that time, I have had carriage of the legislation.

Mr. McGuigan: I submit that standards can be set, just as standards would have to be set in the western provinces. The insurance programs set by those governments have standards and standards can be set here. I anticipate that will be done.

I want to go back to what this young broker was telling me. I do not think anybody has mentioned this, but he talked about skimming. He said what they were doing was skimming. This meant that every company would look at a certain block of insureds it had, run these through the computer and say, "We will eliminate this high-risk group." They would cut those people off. Then some time later they would run things through the computers again and say: "Here is another group of high-risk people. We will cut those people off." We have these insurance companies competing in a system to see who can outskim the other person.

Standards have to be brought in to provide us with a decent set of insurance rules. I am assuming that when this board comes in following the report of Judge Osborne and we have all these things laid before us, these matters can be done. I am certainly assuming they will be done. As a matter of fact, I do not think anybody has

absolutely ruled out that in the end we may not have a government-run program.

Mr. McClellan: Let's do it now.

Mr. McGuigan: I do not rule it out. This bill self-destructs within a year or at the end of this year. By that time we will have the report and will have studied it. We can go sensibly into a program rather than rush pell-mell without proper investigation—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We wouldn't want to rush this.

Mr. McGuigan: It is a temporary bill. It says in the beginning that it is temporary. The fact that it self-destructs at the end of the year proves it is a temporary bill.

Mr. Philip: There will be an election next year; that's what it proves.

Mr. McGuigan: My friend does not know there is going to be an election next year for sure.

Mr. McClellan: Eight days and counting.

Mr. McGuigan: Maybe there is an election coming, but in any event I do not think this government would be wise or would be carrying out its obligations if it runs pell-mell from one bad situation to another bad situation. We want to make sure that what we do is correct.

Mr. Swart: We could have passed the bill a year ago. The situation was as bad then.

Mr. McGuigan: It was not as well known as it presently is. I have to—

Mr. Swart: Because people had blinkers on, it wasn't well known.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Members are reminded that interjections are out of order.

Mr. McGuigan: I have to give the member some credit for bringing this forward before the Legislature, but I certainly look forward to this bill as a temporary measure to cover the period when the studies are complete and a proper presentation can be made to this Legislature and we bring in a bill that corrects some very bad situations that I have been made aware of and that I want to see corrected.

Mr. Charlton: I rise to join the debate on Bill 56. Let me start by saying that one of the reasons a number of members have taken the time to point out the minister's absence in the debate on this bill, both this afternoon and yesterday afternoon, is that it is the absence of the minister from the process here and across Ontario, in terms of the public, that has caused this kind of response to be the Liberal government's approach to the auto insurance crisis.

The member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) is correct that the insurance problem was not as well known two years ago as it is today. The reason for that is because we had to scream at the minister from this side of the House for two years before he would respond. We have been raising it in this House ever since the crisis started two years ago.

We had the common sense, because of the kinds of calls we were getting in our constituency offices and the kind of mail we were getting here at Queen's Park, to set up a task force, because the minister would not set one up; and we went out. I was one of the fortunate or unfortunate four, depending on how you want to look at it, on the task force of the member for Welland-Thorold. We were unfortunate because we had to go out there and listen to all these sad stories, then we had to come in here and try to raise them in the House, to no avail.

We toured the province, we identified the problem and we have raised the profile of that problem to the point where the government now feels it has to respond in some fashion. But the response, let me tell members, is totally inadequate. One of the reasons the response is totally inadequate is that this government has not been out there and has not listened to the people of this province about the problems they are having with insurance, specifically auto insurance.

Mr. McGuigan: You do not want to see a well-researched response?

Mr. Charlton: Of course we do. The Liberals have had two years to do it and have sat on their hands and have done nothing. Now they have to start, so they bring in a bill that is supposed to be a freeze, that is not a freeze. But even if it were a freeze, even if this bill had real teeth to truly freeze rates, all they are freezing is two or three years of absolutely unacceptable inequities, absolutely unjustifiable increases. They freeze them in place. Is that the right answer to an inappropriate situation? Absolutely not.

We have insurance companies in this province that say this man or this woman has got a bad driving record and that is why his or her premiums have doubled or tripled or whatever the case happens to be: he or she is a bigger risk than the normal driver.

The insurance companies not only say that; they want to have it both ways. Here is a little ditty I got from one of my constituents who had been with his insurance company for more than 20 years, who had never had an accident, who had never had a speeding ticket or any other kind

of traffic violation. He had an absolutely clean record.

His insurance company cancelled his insurance. Why? The constituent got in touch with the insurance company and asked why it cancelled his insurance; he had an absolutely clean record. The response of the insurance company was that by the law of averages he was due for a major one any time.

You cannot have it both ways. You cannot say on the one hand that this guy who has had three accidents is a higher risk, and on the other hand that this guy who has not had any in 26 years is due to have one soon, and charge them both a high rate. Either you are going to charge him a high rate because he is due for one soon or you give this guy a break because he has had all the accidents he is likely to have in his life. You cannot penalize them both and not expect the public response, a response that says the industry is crooked and corrupt.

You have a nice little average family of three: a husband, a wife and a son. The son goes out and has a minor accident. The insurance company drops their insurance altogether. Instead of increasing the rates, they drop the insurance. The kid was charged, he went to court and he was acquitted. The accident was not the boy's fault. The insurance company, after the acquittal, came back to the family and said: "We are prepared to work out something. We are prepared to help you to get insurance. We think we can arrange to cover all three of you for \$5,000." That is what the acquittal was worth—a 500 per cent increase in insurance rates.

1640

Here is another one that relates to several problems that have been raised here by my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold and a number of the other members who have spoken. This is an issue that has little to do with the actual level of rates but the kinds of ways the insurance companies are now bending old, traditional rules to suit themselves to make money.

It is a case where this gentleman had his son living with him. His son had a minor accident. His son was under 20. The insurance company told him that if he wanted to continue to insure his son on his policy, it was going to cost him more than \$3,000 a year. The father said: "That is fine, my son will not be driving my car any more. I will take him off my policy. I cannot afford \$3,000 a year." The insurance company said: "That is fine, we will give you a reduction, then. We will reduce it to \$2,000 a year." The father said: "Why? I have an absolutely clean record."

"The boy is still living with you, isn't he? He still has a licence, hasn't he? He might drive that car even if you don't give him permission to; so it is going to cost you \$2,000."

In order not to have to move out of the house, the son had to get in touch with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and cancel his licence so his father could afford his insurance. The insurance companies are telling people who can live with them and who cannot.

Mr. Philip: You can't divorce a son.

Mr. Charlton: You cannot divorce a son. Talking about family, the member for Kent-Elgin would know that. You cannot divorce a son. He is there; he is yours.

The kinds of games that are going on with average people all across this province are just completely unacceptable—ridiculous, in fact.

Here is the case of a constituent who wrote to me about his son. The father had a chance to buy a 1977 Aspen. He wanted to buy it from a neighbour for his son. His son is starting university in September in Waterloo. They had an opportunity to buy this 1977 Aspen, which was in very good condition, from a neighbour, a friend, for \$500.

Unfortunately, to insure the car for his son, without collision—just for the basic liability insurance—it was going to cost \$1,465. They had to forget the whole thing. The son will be able to use public transit, but he will not get home to see his family as often as he would if he had a car. On top of the cost of the university education and the cost of accommodation for their son in Waterloo while he is going to school there, they could not afford to pay three times the price of the car for one year's insurance.

Here is another situation. A constituent wrote to me. He has been driving since 1948 and he has never been involved in an accident, but he admits right here that in a very short period of time he did receive four tickets. Of the four tickets he received, only one was a violation where he also lost points on his licence. That gives an indication of the extent of the seriousness of those violations. He lost three points in total over four tickets, and they jacked up his insurance, but that is not what he is writing to complain to me about. He is basically saying here, "I did a bad number and I am going to have to pay."

But his wife runs a small business. It is her business, not his; he has nothing to do with the business. She has a van that she uses for the business, and she pays the insurance on the van through her business—not out of personal chequing accounts or joint chequing accounts with her

husband, but out of business accounts. The insurance company does a search, finds her husband's name and the four violations and doubles the cost of her business insurance because of his bad record.

That is the kind of impact this insurance game is having out there in the real world in terms of how average people and ordinary business people have to try to operate in this province.

I would like to end my comments by saying a couple of things that I think are important to this debate, this Legislature and, specifically, this government.

Again, the member for Kent-Elgin made comments about doing some good research and therefore ending up doing the right thing instead of doing the wrong thing. The minister has continually refused to commission a study of the four western plans to see what benefits they could or might not provide to Ontario. He has refused to do the study. He has refused to say he wants to know the right answers.

To do any study of the auto insurance problem in Ontario without looking at all the options is, as my friend the member for Welland-Thorold has said a number of times, walking with blinkers on, because the minister is not seeing or hearing all the questions and is not looking at all the possible answers.

I just have one last response from one of my constituents that I would like to read: "Mr. Charlton, please keep up the fight. As a former resident of Vancouver, BC, I paid \$859 per year for coverage on my 1986 Honda Civic. To insure the same auto here in Ontario cost me \$2,250, almost three times the rate in Vancouver." That is almost three times for the same driver with the same record with the same car. In fact, his car is a year older now, so it has depreciated somewhat.

Mr. Swart: In a smaller city.

Mr. Charlton: Yes, and in a smaller city than Vancouver. The city of Hamilton is certainly not a city where you are going to find a higher per capita accident rate than you do in Vancouver.

"My record, although not sterling, has been completely clean for almost three years. Prior to that, it consisted of one speeding ticket and two minor—less than \$1,000 combined—public-damage accidents. I can't see the insurance risk in Ontario versus British Columbia being this severe. The premium I am paying is abusive. If insurance companies cannot provide service at a reasonable cost, perhaps the government can."

There are thousands upon thousands of residents of Ontario who want at least to look at the

option of public auto insurance. To proceed to try to deal in a superficial way with the insurance industry problems in this province without looking at all the options, without seriously exploring the one option that thousands of residents in this province want us to look at, is in my view being negligent in terms of the responsibility this government has to the people it purports to represent. It is giving in to interests that have too loud a voice and are too often listened to in spite of the less vocal pleas of the average people of this province that we have been trying to talk about for the last two years.

We have gotten only as far as Bill 56, a bill which provides very little of any kind of protection to the auto-insurance consumers of this province.

For those reasons, we will not be supporting this bill.

1650

The Acting Speaker: Are there any comments or questions of the member for Hamilton Mountain? If not, further debate? Does the parliamentary assistant wish to make a reply?

Mr. Offer: No. I am just going to enter into the debate if that is—

The Acting Speaker: That is fine.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: There has to be somebody in here carrying the bill and the parliamentary assistant indicated he was carrying the bill. He cannot now rise and speak on the bill without terminating the debate.

Ms. E. J. Smith: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Would it be possible to call a 15-minute recess? We understood the New Democratic Party would be occupying the afternoon with speeches.

The Acting Speaker: It is my understanding of that point of order that the parliamentary assistant did not start the debate. Therefore, he can enter and participate in the debate.

Mr. McClellan: I do not want to take advantage of the situation. You are obviously filling in for the Speaker and his assistants, but I do not believe your ruling is correct. There has to be a minister carrying the bill. When I asked the question earlier, "Who is carrying the bill?" the parliamentary assistant indicated he was carrying the bill.

We are finished our part of the debate, and if the parliamentary assistant rises now to speak, he rises as the member of the government responsible for carriage of the debate, to conclude the debate. I invite him to do that. We are ready to

come to a decision on the question, but if he rises to speak, that is it.

Ms. E. J. Smith: The government is more than happy to co-operate.

The Acting Speaker: Order. It is my understanding, after having received advice on this matter, that the parliamentary assistant will be allowed to enter into the debate as he did not commence the debate. He will, however, not be able to reply to the bill. If the parliamentary assistant, the member for Mississauga North, wishes to participate in the debate, he is free to do so.

Ms. E. J. Smith: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: As this is obviously not the time for the vote bell, we can ring it until the people are assembled, correct? If it were 5:45 p.m., we would have the time for ringing of the bells. I wanted to clarify that point with the member.

The Acting Speaker: There is no time limit on the bell when the vote is called.

Mr. Offer: I will just stand to terminate the debate at this time.

1726

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Kwinter's motion for second reading of Bill 56, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Ashe, Barlow, Bernier, Bossy, Bradley, Brandt, Callahan, Caplan, Conway, Cordiano, Cousens, Curling, Dean, Eakins, Elston, Epp, Ferraro, Fish, Fontaine, Fulton, Gillies, Gordon, Grandmaître, Gregory, Guindon, Haggerty, Harris, Hart, Henderson, Hennessy, Kerrio, Keyes, Kwinter, Lane, Lupusella;

Mancini, McFadden, McGuigan, McKessock, McNeil, Miller, G. I., Mitchell, Munro, Newman, O'Connor, Offer, O'Neil, Partington, Pierce, Poirier, Pollock, Polsinelli, Ramsay, Ruprecht, Sargent, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., South, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Sweeney, Treleaven, Turner, Van Horne, Ward.

Nays

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Foulds, Gigantes, Grande, Hayes, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, Morin-Strom, Philip, Pouliot, Reville, Swart, Warner, Wildman.

Ayes 66; nays 21.

Bill ordered for standing committee on general government.

BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Cousens: This is a document that is worth talking about and I think there is a lot to be said that has not been said. I appreciate the opportunity to talk about this budget that is displayed with a red trillium, which I talked about the other day, the smelliest flower. What is beautiful about this is the colour. It is beautiful in looks. It is the form that the Liberal government is good at. The substance is not there but what is there is not a pleasant thing to be near.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the member. I ask all members to refrain from their conversations. I am sure the member for York Centre would like to be heard.

Mr. Cousens: I have listened very carefully to what they have had to say and I know they will enjoy sharing these words.

The other day I had an opportunity, as we were looking at interim supply, to comment briefly on some of my concerns that relate to the overall budgetary policy of this government. I was looking at the failure of this government to deal with the needs of growing areas, the high-growth areas, the areas that have the potential for providing more impetus, more growth and more money to the coffers of this province. Instead, the government is concentrating on the north and on eastern Ontario. They should also look at the high-growth areas whose problems are very unique and very special and require attention. They cannot be allowed just to be put aside.

What I see happening now in York region and what I am sure is also happening in Peel and Durham is that these regions continue to grow but are not receiving their share of investment from this province to fuel that growth so that the roads are there when people need them, so that the hospitals and social services are there when people need them and so that the schools are there when our students need them.

We are still not rid of the policy of saying 80 per cent of the students have to reside in an area before a school will be built. We are seeing these communities with the children there and they wait an added length of time before schools are erected. This government has failed to address the concerns of the high-growth areas. In my remarks the other day, I tried to give some coverage of that problem.

The second area has to do with the lack of planning for the future, as this government faces the future and has an opportunity to build a stronger manufacturing sector and to allow that sector to begin to retool, regroup and invest its present successes in future successes. That is not happening.

I want to go to my third point and to spend some time on it. There are two budget documents: One is the major document that gives all the data and the economic outlook and the fiscal review of the past year; but this government also published what it calls "Highlights." There is the 1987 Ontario budget, with the name of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and his smelly flower. Then he went and included in the budget, "Highlights." There is nothing, absolutely nothing about the tax burden the people of Ontario are having pushed upon them by this government.

Why does it not give an honest, balanced view? Why does it not tell us what it is going to cost for all these things? Why do the people of Ontario not wise up to the fact that they are paying the bill, that the government is charging them and charging them through the nose, especially with the increased taxes?

Let us talk about that. Let us talk about the taxes the people of this province are paying. It is not covered in "Highlights" and I think it should be highlighted in such a way that all the people of Ontario would realize they are paying the bill, not this government. It takes the credit as if it were, but the hardworking, middle-class people of this province are the ones who are in fact suffering greatly.

Let us look at some of the costs we are talking about. Since assuming office, the Liberals have increased government spending by \$8 billion. To finance this, personal income taxes increased 60 per cent in two years while per capita incomes rose by only 20 per cent. Personal income tax revenues have increased in this province by more than \$3.7 billion or nearly 60 per cent. Further to that, total provincial revenues have increased by nearly \$9 billion; 34.4 per cent. The members should listen to this: Total provincial tax revenues have increased by 48 per cent—\$7.3 billion in that same period of time.

I guess the people in York region are paying part of the bill as well when you realize that land transfer tax proceeds have increased by 223 per cent. Due to the booming housing market, this has been a tremendous success for this government.

Do the members know what has happened? There have been 19 different tax increases since

1985. I wish people would begin to realize who is paying for it. It is the taxpayers of this province, not some magnanimous Treasurer who is coming in with it.

Let us itemize what these additional tax bills are. We have an increased personal income tax of four per cent. This government also imposed an additional surtax. It has changed the capital cost allowance. This government has eliminated the inventory allowance, increased the alcoholic beverage markup levy and increased fees for drivers' licences and motor vehicle registration. This government raised the corporate income tax rate, increased the land transfer tax, which I just mentioned, and increased gasoline tax by going to a flat tax system. This government, not in this budget but in the last one, increased the tobacco tax. This government imposed retail sales tax on various items.

That is why we as a province are so rich and the people are so poor. This government continues to take off the cream, take off the hard work and take the money from people's pockets in a hidden way. The people of this province cannot afford or continue to afford the high taxes we are having to pay.

What is happening at the same time is that government spending is increasing at a phenomenal rate. Government spending has increased in the last two years by 30 per cent. I cannot believe it. What we are seeing is inflation going up at 4.1 per cent while last year alone the annual spending of this government was up 10 per cent.

Despite Ontario's buoyant economy, the public debt continues to stay at the same level it was at in 1982-83. The interest on the debt this government now is paying continues to be in the high figures, figures I cannot even begin to understand fully, but there it is: \$3.8 billion annually.

What has happened here is that we had \$8 billion in excess revenue. What has this government done with it? Not very much. That becomes the concern we have to ask.

1740

We have a chance to build a solid economic policy. We have a chance to build a solid housing policy, a solid policy on transportation and roads. These things do not happen simply because we pay for them. They require earnest commitment, solid philosophical direction and the ability to pay as you go and to do it responsibly. This government has so squandered the economic boom it now finds itself in that the minute there is the slightest downturn in our economy, the minute the auto industry is off by

15 per cent, the minute some new trade difficulty is imposed on us, if we are not able to negotiate a freer trade agreement with the Americans, we will be in serious fiscal difficulty. What do I mean by serious fiscal difficulty? I mean a circumstance where we will be unable to find the resources necessary to meet the responsibilities an economic downturn always produces.

We have the lowest rate of unemployment in Canada today and that is one of the reasons we are going through the kind of economic boom and revenue increase our province is seeing. We have also seen the highest rate of inflation in Canada today. You and I, Mr. Speaker, along with other Conservative members of this House, know that inflation is the toughest tax on the poor, the toughest tax on senior citizens and those living on fixed incomes. It is the toughest tax on people with little or no flexibility. That inflation in Ontario is being caused in large part, in my view, by the massive increases in taxes brought about by this government and the high-spending ways it has pursued, which are essentially wasteful and not focused on investing in the future.

We are at a critical time in this province when we could do something about personal income tax and reduce it. We could do something about sales tax and reduce it. We could do something about gasoline tax in the north and reduce it. Instead of pouring more money into a health system to deal with chronic funding problems, we should have moved to reform the system and make it more community-based and reduce the massive bureaucracy.

This is a government that needs to understand that the people of this province want to have a responsible government, one that is preparing for the future and understands that everything may not continue to be as successful as it has been. That is really what we should be doing now. As a government, this government should set about developing a solid economic policy and that policy would allow us to plan for the future with confidence.

What we have in Ontario today was built over the years. It was a quality of economy, a quality of approach. It allowed for diversity in the wealth of our people. That was not the result of governments that had no direction, that had no focus or purpose. That success this government inherited was and is the result of the hard work of the people of Ontario, of their industriousness, foresight, responsibility and spirit of enterprise. That is what must be returned to the government of Ontario if we are to succeed in this generation

to build effectively and responsibly for generations to come.

The Treasurer says it is all right for our kids to inherit a massive debt because they will benefit from the programs we are financing today. Is that so? Will they benefit from technology funds into which hundreds of millions of dollars are poured and from which no meaningful investments emerge in the future? Will they truly benefit from funds given to farmers to help them fix tractors while there are no programs to keep those very same farmers from having the banks repossess their farms?

Will our kids really benefit from dollars spent on lowering the tax on junk food rather than dollars spent on modernizing our educational system and giving our teachers and school boards the support necessary to give our children the best? Will our children really benefit from funding of the health care system that is essentially blind to the changes in our society, which requires a different health care system for the future? Will our children really benefit from a lack of commitment to roads and transportation here in Ontario, in Metropolitan Toronto and in other regions of the province where the neglect is becoming almost criminal? I doubt it. I doubt that our children will benefit at all. I think our primary responsibility in this generation, in our time, is to reduce the burden on our children and maximize the benefits they will receive because we as a society invested prudently, built responsibly and were sufficiently concerned and focused to do the right things for Ontario's future.

Politics in a civilized society is an argument about the future. Our vision of the future as Conservatives is one where the government that governs best is the government that knows its place, the government that understands its role is to facilitate maximum freedom of opportunity, freedom of movement, freedom of enterprise, freedom of initiative and freedom of choice and options within for a prosperous society for all our people.

We do not believe, as the Liberals believe, that the only dollar that counts is a government dollar, that the only people who count are government people and that the only programs that matter are government programs. We do not believe in increasing the size of the civil service and the bureaucratic burden on the taxpayers of this province. We do not believe in an unconscionably high tax burden, especially where there are the resources to reduce it substantially. We do not believe in government by intervention, by pilot study and by feasibility study. We believe in

the sound prudence of fiscal responsibility, taxpayer protection, commitment to the future and the courage to care about what is really important.

The Liberals are shoppers. We are investors. The Liberals are wasters. We are savers. The Liberals increase our debt. We believe in paying it down. The Liberals increase the size of government. We believe in controlling its growth. The Liberals have no policy on trade. We believe in freer trade as the best guarantee of a dynamic and trading Ontario economy. The Liberals reduce funding to education. We are committed to investing heavily in education. The Liberals fund the status quo of health care. We want genuine people-oriented reform.

We are talking about the budget of Ontario. It fails to address the needs of our people. It is a dishonest statement in that it does not come back and tell the people that it is taking their money and squandering it across the province. I believe that on this case alone, this government should be defeated. This government should turn in its mandate to those who are prepared to run this economy and drive it forward so that there is success for all, so that we create an environment for success, so that we create the spirit of free enterprise and so that we in this province look after the needs of those socially responsible and those socially in need, but at the same time put together an economy that allows this province to live on in the future without incurring the debt, the load and the problems this government is bringing upon us.

Mr. Mancini: I have a couple of comments on the speech that was just read by my honourable colleague the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens).

Miss Stephenson: Written by your honourable colleague from York Centre.

Mr. Mancini: That is debatable. Some day we will have a chance to debate items such as that.

The honourable member forgot to mention that this government had to sell Suncor and the people of Ontario had to pay for it. The honourable member forgot to mention that we have reduced the deficit to under \$1 billion for the first time in seven years. The honourable member forgot to mention that we have increased the staff in psychiatric areas, correctional institutes and other important areas. I am sure they would not want to go on a platform and say that staff in those areas should be reduced.

1750

The honourable member forgot to mention the fact that when he talks about freer trade, he does

not even know what he is talking about, because the outline given to Canada by Brian Mulroney and his crew in Ottawa who want to sell and also give away Canada has not been structured in such a way that we can adequately participate in a debate.

We cannot participate in a free trade debate because all the negotiations are done in secret by Mr. Reisman and his counterpart over in Washington. Every now and then we read about secret reports that are made public, which scare the nation. We do not want truck and trade with Mr. Mulroney when he is having truck and trade in secret with his friends in the United States.

Mr. Harris: I apologize that I was not able to be here for the complete text of the speech by the member for York Centre, but I did hear some of the comments he mentioned.

The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) said that the member did not mention the deficit being below \$1 billion. I did not hear all the remarks, but I wonder if the member for York Centre might comment on the deficit. By my calculations, it is \$1.5 billion when you consider the sleight of hand with the \$350 million they say they are going to find somewhere—over the spending estimates, plus the sleight of hand on the education funding. I wonder if the member for York Centre might comment on what appears to any intelligent observer to be a deficit of \$1.5 billion and a disgrace.

The member for Essex South talked about some of the other things the member did not mention. I do not know if he had commented on spending being up \$8 billion or \$5 billion over inflation in a little over two years in office. I wonder if the member can comment on that. I would appreciate his views on that.

I did not catch all the member's comments on free trade, but I did hear the member for Essex South's remarks on free trade. I assume the member probably read the text of the speech of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) yesterday to the chamber. He said that the Ontario government firmly applauded the initiatives of the federal government, that the government agrees 100 per cent with the purpose and with what the federal government is doing. The member might want to comment on the comments of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

Ms. Caplan: Perhaps the member would also like to acknowledge the fact that this budget cut taxes for 1.8 million people in this province. In fact, it reduces the deficit and does not increase taxes. As well, it increases spending on the

infrastructure. It seems to me that this budget is deserving of support from that party whose leader has said his party wanted to see a budget that reduced taxes, increased spending on the infrastructure and did all the things this budget is doing.

My question of the member is, why has he not acknowledged in his comments and statements on this budget the fact that this budget has done exactly the kinds of things that his party has been advocating: cutting taxes for those most needy within our society, spending on housing, spending on education, spending on health care services in this province. Not one word about the rebuilding of our roads and our infrastructure; not one word of praise in this speech for the acknowledgement of Highway 407, which this member has been advocating for so long.

I think many of the things that have been done are worthy and deserving of support from the member who just spoke—for instance, acknowledgement that 40,000 families will have their Ontario health insurance plan premiums eliminated. Many of these kinds of initiatives deserve support from the official opposition, because this is a progressive budget which looks at treating those people fairly.

I believe the member should stand in his place and acknowledge the good things this budget does in a fiscally responsible manner, that it does cut taxes, reduce the deficit and rebuild the infrastructure that was allowed to decay. I do not blame the member opposite for that decay, because he was not here.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other comments or questions on the comments made by the member for York Centre? If not, the member for York Centre may wish to respond for up to two minutes.

Mr. Cousens: It is very difficult to say what I want to say in two minutes, when the member for Oriole (Ms. Caplan) has made the statements she just did. I honestly can say that I do not think she knows what she said.

Miss Stephenson: Or really believes what she said.

Mr. Cousens: Or could believe what she said. If there was any cut in taxes, let her tell me where it is. What the government has done is get rich in the last few years on the backs of the middle-income earners in this province. Everybody is disgusted with what it has done as a government, because there is not any focus, no focus at all. It has done nothing to go after the deficit, only a little tiddly bit if things go the way it wants them to.

May I say it is a shock and a shame, and what we are seeing here is a massive sham. When I hear the member for Essex South coming up—it is good to see him stand and speak because if he does I think he could put his government in so much trouble it would never see the light of day again.

Anyway, as the member went on and described what is going on, I do not think he read the same document I did. When he said it was so good, I think he was reading one of the Davis budgets or the budget of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) of a few years ago. This does not compare with the kind of focus and the kind of push we gave the economy. There is nothing here for the business people. There is nothing here for the farmers. There is nothing here for the future. What they are doing is just spreading it around and not really accomplishing anything with it.

I am proud to be able to stand up in this House and say that if I were the Treasurer I know I would do it differently. If the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick were the Treasurer, I know he would do it differently. If the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) were the Treasurer, I know again it would be different. It would have a sense of being progressive, social legislation, and it would be economically conservative. It would have the best of both worlds for this province, where we are able to plan for the future. I would say the social conscience of this party is twice theirs, if they had one.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired. Are there any other members wishing to participate in the debate?

Mrs. Marland: I am looking forward very much to participating in this debate on the interim supply bill. I am certainly—

Mr. Speaker: Actually, this is the budget debate.

Mrs. Marland: Have we changed it to the budget debate?

Mr. Speaker: No, we commenced that today.

Mrs. Marland: I see. I am sorry. It was my understanding that we were able to speak on one or the other interchangeably, but in either case I am addressing the subject of the lack of supply for the people of Ontario through the budget of this year. I will look forward to addressing that in more detail because I simply cannot deal with it in the amount of time left this afternoon in the House, namely, approximately two minutes.

With respect for the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, and your scheduling of the procedure in the

House, I will look forward to expressing my very real concern for the budget of May 1987 when this House reconvenes.

On motion by Mrs. Marland, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

CONTENTS

Wednesday, June 17, 1987

Members' statements

Municipal parks and recreation, Mr. Rowe	1445
Market value assessment, Mr. McClellan	1445
Organ Donor Awareness Week, Mr. D. R. Cooke	1445
Child care, Mr. Partington	1446
Funeral services, Mr. Swart	1446
Wally McCabe, Mr. Sargent	1446
Travel information, Mr. Harris	1446

Statement by the ministry

Roomers, boarders and lodgers, Hon. Mr. Scott	1447
--	------

Responses

Roomers, boarders and lodgers, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Rae, Mr. Reville	1447
---	------

Oral questions

Ontario Hydro planning, Mr. Andrewes, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1449
Conversion of rental accommodation, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Curling	1450
Government contracts, Mr. Gillies, Hon. Mr. Conway	1451
Rent regulation, Mr. Reville, Hon. Mr. Curling	1452
Government contracts, Mr. Gillies, Hon. Mr. Conway	1453
Radioactive soil, Mr. Charlton, Hon. Mr. Curling	1454
Infrastructure renewal, Mr. Mancini, Hon. Mr. Bradley	1455
Hospital site, Mr. O'Connor, Hon. Mr. Elston	1455
Marketing boards, Mr. Hayes, Hon. Mr. Riddell	1456
Fishing licence revenues, Mr. Ward, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1457
Government mail, Mr. Brandt, Hon. Mr. Conway	1457
Fishing licence revenues, Mr. Wildman, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1458
Closing of regional office, Mr. Harris, Hon. Mr. Eakins	1459

Petitions

Public education taxes, Mr. Pouliot, tabled	1459
Noise barrier, Mr. D. R. Cooke, tabled	1460

First reading

Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act, Bill 87, Hon. Mr. Scott agreed to	1460
---	------

Second reading

Automobile Insurance Act, Bill 56, Hon. Mr. Kwinter, Mr. Morin-Strom, Mr. Ashe, Mr. McClellan, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Wildman, Mr. Philip, Mr. McGuigan, Mr. Charlton, agreed to	1460
---	------

Budget debate

Mr. Cousens, Mr. Mancini, Mr. Harris, Ms. Caplan	1477
---	------

Other business

Adjournment	1482
--------------------------	------

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of Environment (St. Catharines L)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Caplan, E. (Oriole L)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education and acting Minister of Government Services (Renfrew North L)
Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC)
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)
Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)
Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)
Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)
Partington, P. (Brock PC)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Polsinelli, C., Acting Speaker (Yorkview L)
Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)
Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)
Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)
Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)
Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)
Smith, E. J. (London South L)
Stephenson, B. M. (York Mills PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)



No. 30

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Third Session, 33rd Parliament

Thursday, June 18, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, June 18, 1987

The House met at 10:02 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

RIGHT TO FARM

Mr. McNeil moved resolution 14:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should bring forward legislation dealing with the purchase or leasing of farm property. Specifically this legislation should make it mandatory that any person or persons purchasing or leasing property in a bona fide agricultural area be informed of the conditions associated with farming and not be in a position to harass or close down a bona fide farming operation.

Mr. McNeil: In introducing this resolution, I would hope to be able to discuss some of the problems that have been developing in our farming communities between farmers and non-farming, former urbanite residents.

I was raised on a small dairy farm in southwestern Ontario when all the work in my early years was done by horsepower and manpower. At that time, the average-sized farm was 100 acres, where a crop rotation was closely followed and no sprays, chemicals or fertilizers were used. Hard work was the order of the day and everyone in the family worked during the daylight hours.

As we realize, agriculture has experienced many changes since those days. Farming units have become much larger, with the result that many former farm homes have been severed and sold to nonfarmers.

In addition to this trend, many farmers decided over the years to retire on their farms, with the result that another home was built and the farm was often operated as a father-son combination in partnership. This system worked extremely well for the first generation, but when farmers became more mechanized and the original owner passed away, another home became surplus property and, naturally, would be placed on the market. If this home was sold to an urbanite who wanted to leave the noises and smells associated with the city, sometimes problems could develop when

the new owner did not recognize or understand a farming operation.

It would appear that some type of registry should be developed whereby information is available to future purchasers that outlines the type of farming that exists in the area. This registry could be located in the municipal office of the municipality and should also be available to the local land registry office.

I do not think we can expect real estate agents to publicize the fact that a beautiful country home which is on the market is located next to a large livestock farming operation. Yet, in all fairness, the purchaser of that beautiful home should be made aware of the conditions that exist in the area.

As I mentioned earlier, agriculture has experienced many changes since my days on that small dairy farm in southwestern Ontario. These changes will continue and no doubt farms will become larger and more specialized. Farming today, as we recognize it, is big business and represents a large capital investment in land, buildings, machinery and crops. Farmers today are specialists in various fields with the result that units are larger and much more mechanized.

Prior to the Second World War, a 100-acre farm would employ at least two people on a full-time basis in addition to the growing family who were also expected to help with the farm chores. Today it is nothing unusual for two people to efficiently work several hundred acres of land.

Let me quote a personal example on our farm to substantiate this statement. We have our corn harvested by a neighbour. Last fall, this custom operator pulled into the 75-acre field at 4:30 in the afternoon and by two o'clock the following morning the harvest of that 75 acres was completed. In the 1950s, we used to average five acres a day with a one-row corn picker drawn by a tractor. In other words, what was accomplished in less than 10 hours would have taken more than 15 days just 30-odd years ago.

If a former urban dweller had lived next to that corn field, that person or persons might not have appreciated the noise and activity that was taking place in that field on a very quiet October evening.

Farming today is not the peaceful, pastoral scene sometimes depicted by artists, showing a herd of animals chewing their cuds under a clump of beautiful maple trees, beside a lovely, clear stream where a young farm lad is trying his luck with a fishing pole. These scenes do not exist in our part of the province any more. Since agriculture is facing more economic challenges, farmers are forced to work long hours during seeding and harvest.

1010

Imagine the reaction of a family which has recently purchased or leased a lovely home in the country. At five o'clock on an April morning, they are suddenly awakened by the sound of a diesel tractor which is operating in a field next to their property. They were not prepared for this. Later that day, with the windows and doors of that home open for fresh air, a very strong, peculiar odour enters this home. On investigation, this new rural dweller learns that liquid manure is being applied to the field next door.

The understandable reaction would be one of surprise and wondering the reason for not being informed of this operation when being sold the property. It could result in the Ministry of the Environment being contacted and charges laid against the neighbour, who is only carrying out his normal farming operations.

Members may say this is impossible, but I can assure them that recently I had a constituent who was spreading liquid manure on a field in his farm with an irrigation system. One of the distributors ceased working for only a short time before being noticed and repaired, and he has since been charged with polluting a drain. Previous to being charged, he was told by an official of the Ministry of the Environment that liquid manure should not be allowed to be spread on fields.

How is a farmer going to dispose of the animal waste, which also has value as a fertilizer, if it cannot be spread on agricultural land? Farmers are fearful of courts and lawyers. Most farmers are law-abiding, hardworking, honest citizens, and to be charged and appear in a court is a very difficult experience for them.

If former urban dwellers were made aware of some of the conditions that exist in a farming community for only short periods of time, I feel the problems such as some of the ones that are developing would not happen. These people should know about the noise, the dust, the odour and smell and the long hours of work associated with different periods in the operation of a successful farm.

I recognize that we do have a code of ethics and that it is impossible to obtain a building permit for buildings housing livestock or poultry unless the building is located more than 1,000 feet from houses and dwellings. I live on a farm that is designated as restricted agriculture, which I understand means that in case of a fire or in case of the buildings being destroyed, I could replace the present farm buildings but would not be able to expand on the same site since the outbuildings are located too close to the residents in a nearby hamlet.

I support this type of restriction, and I want to emphasize that I am not opposed to urban people moving to farming communities. I feel there are areas in this province where severances can be made on nonproductive, nonworkable farm land, but those who purchase these severances should be informed of the type of agricultural operations that exist in that farming area.

Most farmers must use chemicals in controlling weeds and parasites in field and fruit crops. These sprays must be used with caution and I commend the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for the work it has done over the years in advising farmers in the proper use of chemicals. Just imagine the result in our fruit-growing areas in this province if chemicals were banned and our fruit would no longer be available because of insect infestation. I know this will not happen, but some strange things have happened in the agricultural picture in the last few years.

A few years ago a farmer received a warning and almost had his drying operation shut down because of noise created by that corn dryer when it was operating at night. I think we all recognize the fact that when farmers are spending long hours in the harvest fields, it is necessary to operate dryers during the night in order to have an efficient operation.

I have always felt that most people are reasonable and responsible. I feel that our new neighbours, if they understood the problems associated with agricultural production when purchasing or leasing properties in farming areas, would have a much better understanding and would not create any problems associated with that farming operation.

As a farmer, I also recognize that farmers have to assume a great deal of responsibility. We cannot, we should not and we must not recklessly use chemicals or dispose of animal byproducts.

Co-operation between farmers and nonfarmers can make for a happy environment and this in turn will create a good-neighbour policy which is always needed in all communities, particularly a

rural community. I would ask for the support of the honourable members of this Legislature in adopting this resolution. I will reserve a couple of minutes.

The Deputy Speaker: The member wishes to reserve two minutes?

Mr. McNeil: Yes, for reply.

Mr. Hayes: I rise in favour of this resolution. I think a lot of the problems we have had over the years in the agricultural area are the number of severances that have been given in the various municipalities across this province without a lot of concern over the effects they would have on the farmer and even on the person moving into the farming area.

I know the member has mentioned the real estate agents, but I think there should be a great obligation put on real estate companies when they are in the process of selling a piece of property in a rural area or in a farming community. I think there are many times that people will go from the city, look at a house or a lot out in the farming area and think it is just lovely, the air is just beautiful and clean. What the real estate agent or anyone else does not tell those people is that next year that farmer might be spreading some manure on that land. Then, all of a sudden, people are going to complain about that because it is not a very nice smell to some people.

I think these things have to be looked at very seriously, and I do believe there is an obligation on the real estate people, the municipalities and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to set some good, strong guidelines and to make sure that people, before they move into a rural area, are well informed as to what type of operations could take place in that particular community.

1020

When we talk about the severances, we find that there is a lot of demand for services in the rural area. A lot of times, the people who live in the residential area end up outnumbering the farmers in the area, and many times they are faced with a demand for services such as sewers and water lines. Even some of the drains they have had for years and have been sufficient to, drain agricultural land are all of a sudden not good enough to drain the residential area.

We have to take a look at these particular areas and make sure when we do develop property for housing, or if we allow any kinds of severances, that they are built on land that is not prime agricultural land, with the understanding that it is not the same as living in the city.

I had a case just last week where a woman complained that a farmer's field was growing up in weeds—really, it was some hay; but there were no noxious weeds in that particular field. I felt sorry for this woman because she was affected with allergies, but at the same time we talked to the farmer, who said, "We are going to cut that and then we are going to bale it." This particular individual did not want it cut and baled because there would be a lot of dust. Had that person known before she moved into the area that this kind of operation was going to happen, we would not have had this type of problem.

I think we have to be realistic about certain things. In this particular area, you could get politicians or anyone else in and get into the middle of a big fight, saying, "Look, you have to do something to accommodate this individual." But it gets back to the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) to put down some good, strong, black-and-white legislation, and to that of the municipalities and, as I mentioned earlier, the real estate boards.

At the same time, we have to use some good common sense when we are talking about splitting up or severing agricultural land.

There is another area which the member did not mention in his resolution. That is, we have to take a look at the other side of the issue, where the farmer, for example, or any other resident is affected by severances given for industrial operations that could have adverse effects on the farming operation. That is another particular area we should be looking at.

We have all kinds of cases—probably everyone in this House who is in a rural area has heard of them—where, for example, we have farmers who are getting their crops eaten up by crows, and if they have a noisemaker or they happen to shoot the crows, the neighbours are complaining about the noise nuisance. That is another area.

For example, a number of years ago in the municipality of Maidstone there was a farm that had a slaughterhouse operation on it for many years, and then all of a sudden it had gone out of business. A few years later it ended up becoming a depot for the hog market. In the few years between the slaughter operation going out of business and the new business starting up as a depot, there were a couple of people who built new houses close to that area; they were quite adamant that they should not have that operation because of the smell from the hogs. That fight went on for quite a long time, and it is something that should never have to happen.

Getting back to the other point, I support this resolution, but I think at the same time we are going to have to put down some good, definite rules. A lot of it has to do with the types of severances that are given in the rural area. I am not opposed to a severance, for example, for someone who wants it for his or her children who are going to continue the farm operation or for a retirement lot. Of course, those particular people know what the farm operation is all about. I am also not opposed to good, planned subdivisions or housing in some of the rural areas.

We have to make sure there is not going to be continued conflict between someone on a residential lot and someone on a farm. If we do allow this to happen, before we know it, farmers are not going to be able to run normal farming operations if, in some areas, urban people who have moved into the residential area of a farming community end up outnumbering the farmers. This could cause a really serious concern.

We have to look at the preservation of our agricultural lands and make sure that agriculture can become more viable in Ontario, but by no means either do we want farmers to be able to go the other way and feel that they can go above and beyond and use methods that will also affect the environment. We also want to make sure that we have a good, equal balance there where we can continue to have a good farming industry in this province.

Mr. McGuigan: I rise to compliment the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil) for his resolution and to state at the very beginning that we support it.

I just want to report on events that have taken place over the last few months. As members know, the Minister's Right to Farm Advisory Committee was appointed and held hearings throughout the province. In fact, I attended one in St. Thomas. This committee recommended a permit system that would allow or disallow severances. The minister has asked for public comment and is presently looking at these returns.

The government is also looking at US right-to-farm legislation, which varies from state to state, and at legislation in other provinces. A draft bill is being prepared, and before it is presented in its final form it will be discussed with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the rural municipalities and possibly other interested groups.

I can report in addition that, like my experience with the Shoreline Management Review Committee, which I chaired last summer, the report of the right to farm advisory committee has

raised several legal questions. There are long-entrenched and accepted rules of common law—in fact, laws that stretch back even to Roman times—and there is the basic right to enjoy the use of one's property. These rules protect the farmer against trespass; they give him rights about his fencing and his drainage and even rights below the surface.

A lawyer friend of mine tells me that a property owner really owns a cone that proceeds from the boundaries of his property right down to the centre of the earth and extends into the sky for infinity. The farther away, of course, the less the rights become.

1030

Those rights protect farmers. An instance was the case of Bob Walker, whose property was next to the airport property at Chatham. The city of Chatham had misused the money given by the federal government to extend the runway and had extended it right to his fence line. That meant the path of the aircraft started at ground level and rose only one foot for each 100 feet into the man's field. It was about 800 feet into Walker's property before he could actually grow a corn crop, because that pathway belonged to the aircraft. He fought them and eventually won.

I want to put on the record that I supported the farmer, and at the time it was not a very popular position to take, because the people did not understand the law and did not realize that what they were really doing was stealing his land. That was what they were doing; they were stealing his land. It was not very popular. Finally, the federal government had to rush in, and it cost the government \$1 million to buy out these rights from the farmer.

Those rights that we speak about protect farmers, but we as farmers also have to recognize that they also protect other property owners. Under the rights and freedoms and the laws we enjoy where we treat people equally, serious questions are raised as to how we accomplish the very legitimate aims presented by the member for Elgin.

I do not want to imply for one second that the government has any less resolve to continue with this right-to-farm legislation than the member has with his resolution; I simply point out there are some difficulties. We ran into those last summer on the shoreline review committee. At every hearing we held, people brought up the particular point that where they protected their property against erosion and the neighbour did not, the erosion would attack the neighbour, come in on the flank of the protected property and

in fact even around behind the protected property.

As a committee, we thought it was a very simple thing to use the principle of legislation that is used in the Drainage Act and in the Local Improvement Act, that where two thirds of the people involved—or in the case of farm land, two thirds of the acreage—are in favour of going ahead with a project, then the other, declining people could be forced to put in a sidewalk or to put in drainage.

Going back to the fact that it is an unwritten law, the common law, that we all enjoy the right to our property, there was a legal case in Huron county where the property owner who did not protect his shoreline brought a case against those who did protect their shoreline because, he said, "They are causing extra erosion on my land; therefore, I am losing the right to enjoy my property." He won the case. So it is a little more difficult than we had first imagined.

One of the professors from Queen's University who presented a case to us—I raise this as an example—said there were 43 acts that affect the shoreline, and they are administered by 11 different bodies. We have a lot of legislation that affects the way we treat nonfarm as well as farm property owners, with the Environmental Assessment Act, as already mentioned, being one of those acts. A canvass is already being done to try to find ways to overcome many of these legal problems. But we do have to stress that the basic law that protects the farmer and keeps trespassers off his farm also gives rights to other people that cannot be ignored.

I like the idea which the member has brought forward that we have a register. It seems to me that would be a means of informing people and a means of alleviating some of the problems. I certainly endorse that. Not being a lawyer, I cannot touch on what all the legal implications might be, but I think it would be difficult to enforce or to pass legislation that would require a real estate agent to do this, because when you sell a piece of property you are selling it for all time, and for all time there could be many situations that would develop as to the rights of one property owner against the other that could not be foreseen at the time. There would also be the question of whether you could come back on the real estate agent if something developed that was not foreseen or was not lived up to.

Two cases come to mind. When architects sign their drawings, that puts a legal obligation upon them that the building is not going to fall down due to some faulty design. I believe engineers are

in the same situation. But you cannot do that unless you have a university education and also an internship that goes beyond your education. I do not think we really want to go to that extreme in putting that kind of obligation upon real estate agents, but I do think it would be a grand idea if we had a register. Perhaps we could have a code of ethics that would not be legally binding but nevertheless would be a code by which real estate agents operated. Again, we found in the shoreline hearings that people would say, "If I had only known about the flood level, if I had only known about fluctuating lake levels, I might have done things differently."

As the member for Elgin pointed out, one of the best things we can do is be good neighbours. It seems to me education plays a great part in that. The member for Elgin and several other people here today attended the Ontario Hydro research station yesterday. They pointed out some of the things they were doing to try to alleviate the noise from their transformers. It seems to me that we could spend a lot of money on research in trying to find ways to alleviate the noise that comes from, say, drying fans: different designs, different placements of those fans.

A number of years ago, the University of Guelph did a lot of research on how to place buildings to alleviate the problem of drifting snow, and they could design farmscapes that minimized that damage. Surely we could do the same thing as to the placing of noisy operations. Perhaps we could plant certain types of fast-growing trees, poplar trees and so on, that would give a screen. We could alleviate many of these problems—

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your time has expired.

Mr. McGuigan: Thank you. We certainly support the intent of this resolution.

Mr. McLean: I would like to speak briefly on the resolution of my colleague with regard to the purchase and leasing of farm property in the area where a bona fide farming operation is in place, but I would like to talk mainly on farm severances that take place in Ontario.

I would like to take this opportunity to address the House on resolution 79. The resolution calls on the Minister of Agriculture and Food to ensure the continuation of active farmers to retain a retirement lot by severance and that the farm community should be allowed, in these circumstances where farms have unworkable agricultural lots, such as small bush lots, ravine lots, inaccessible areas for large farming equipment

and other areas, to sever off these parcels at the discretion of land division committees.

As well, I support the resolution's provisions for further owners of the severed parcels of land to acknowledge the farmer's right to farm on the surrounding property. Like many farmers in my riding, and throughout the rest of Ontario for that matter, I am concerned about the possible erosion of the rights of those in the agricultural field if this resolution is not passed.

1040

The history of farming in this province dates back to before the time of John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Having myself farmed nearly 30 years in Oro township, I am well aware of the plight of farmers in the province. I may also be a little more cautious about the concerns of farmers than many of my colleagues whose ridings consist only of urban areas, because 10 per cent of my constituents in the riding of Simcoe East are involved in farming of one kind or another. That 10 per cent may be a minority, but it is the important minority that puts food on our tables.

Farmers and farm families are a proud group with a lengthy history in Ontario. Farmers and the farming community are an independent group who seldom come to the government seeking handouts. This resolution ensures that bona fide farmers or farm families will have the opportunity to retain a retirement lot, if they so desire. In my travels throughout the riding of Simcoe East, I have been made aware that farmers are receiving a mixed and, at times, confusing message from this government with regard to the kind of severance possible for retirement lots. This resolution would do a great deal to clear up that confusion.

It has been pointed out to me that there has been a stampede of farmers to land division committees throughout Ontario because farmers and farm families have a very real fear that if they do not get the retirement lot now, the right to do so later could disappear. Even with the current restrictions on obtaining retirement lots—I think it is 10 years in some cases, it must remain within the family—there is a rush to land division committees because of the fear that retirement lot rights might be further eroded.

The first section of resolution 79 ensures that the farmer or the farm family will indeed have the right to stay on that land. My colleagues in this House who represent urban ridings should be aware that the days when farmers had an opportunity to sell their farms for a relatively large profit and then to retire on that well-

deserved nest-egg are long gone. Situations no longer exist where huge profits can be made through the sale of farm land for retirement.

With the existing restrictions, we have zoning throughout this province, and with current municipal official plans, a ceiling has been placed on what farm properties are worth on the open market. Because of this, we must ensure that farmers and farm families in Ontario, those who are producing the food for this province and for export, must be guaranteed by this government that they will be looked after when they retire following a lengthy and productive period of working the land.

The second section of resolution 79 deals with allowing bona fide farmers and farm families to sever parcels of land for the creation of retirement lots. When we talk about bona fide farmers, we are not referring to those individuals or corporations who rush out, buy anywhere from 100 to 300 acres and then approach a land division committee to sever parcels and sell the rest of the farm land. I am talking about farmers who can prove how long they have been in operation, whether their families are involved in the day-to-day operation of the farm and whether their sons and daughters are living on the farm with them. Those are bona fide farmers and they should have no difficulty in proving it as fact.

What I am saying is, we must allow our farm communities in Ontario to have the opportunity sever a parcel of land for their retirement where that severance makes sense. I am not referring to taking valuable agricultural land out of production. That would be the last thing on my mind, but the last thing this resolution would permit. I am talking about severing nonproductive land, such as ravines, small bush lots and inaccessible areas. Most farms in Ontario have a nonproductive area, like those I have mentioned, that would be ideal for severing to create a retirement lot along the swampy areas or parcels where it is nonproductive. Once again, farmers would have no difficulty in proving it to land division committees when they ask for severance.

What about those who are concerned about retirement lots springing up in the middle of productive farm land. That is a problem that is easy to get around simply by placing it on one side of the agricultural parcel. What about the problem of a purchaser of a retirement lot who buys from the farmer and then objects to farming going on next to or around his newly purchased land? I am talking about urban people who buy their retirement lots from a farmer, who eventually want to sell, and then turn around and

complain about the smell or noise of agriculture or the fact the snow is not ploughed the way they want it. This problem is not an easy one, but it is answered in this resolution.

This resolution states that any purchaser of that property must acknowledge the farmer's right to continue farming that surrounding property in the manner he or she is accustomed to. That would be an integral part of the deed of that particular portion of land which is going to be severed. It would be there on the deed so the purchaser would know what to expect and not end up calling or writing the local council or member of Parliament to complain about the normal operations of the adjoining farm.

I also like the fact that the resolution put forward by my colleague has provisions in it that, I think, spell out very clearly a bona fide farmer. Many of my colleagues in this Legislature have a farm background, whether they were raised on a farm or are still involved in agriculture to some degree, as I am. They know the farm community is a proud one that does not like to see the Minister of Agriculture and Food travelling around the province telling the people that we have to have a policy in which there are no severances.

When we look at the severances policy that is in place now, where it is under the control of the local municipalities, there is no one who knows any better than the local government where severances should be created and should not be created. As I have said before, the major concern I have is with the bona fide farmer being able to operate and continue to operate without harassment of any kind from the new neighbours once these severances have been created. Sometimes the problem comes with the second or third owner of the property. We have all heard of court cases in other parts of Canada where the farmer has been put out of business because of complaints.

I would hope the member's resolution would signify to the people of this province and to the municipal councils that what they should be doing is putting on the deeds of these properties that the bona fide farmer can stay in operation. I would hope the Legislature would see fit to support my colleague's resolution, as I will.

Mr. Swart: In rising to speak on this motion, I want to say immediately that I strongly support what I think is the principle embodied in this motion: that a bona fide, responsible farmer should have the right to carry on his farm operations without harassment either from the neighbours or from the governmental authorities.

I want, though, to make two comments here about the resolution. The first is, of course, that the Conservatives were in power for 42 years. Why have we not got the legislation in place at this time? After all, the member who is introducing it was, at least for a time, the parliamentary assistant to the then Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Second, I want to say the resolution evades, to a very substantial degree, the real issue, the real problems of planning and enforcement: the issue of preventing it from arising—I gather from the two speakers for the Conservative Party there may even be some difference in their caucus—and the right-to-farm legislation, the kind of legislation that has to be enacted to enforce this. These are difficult matters not really dealt with in the resolution.

I support that people moving out into the country and buying a residential lot or a property should, of course, be informed that they are going to have to put up with the problems that may exist for them because of the farming operation. Just to say that, with all the complexity of the legislation and enforcement, is not really to solve the problem.

1050

There is no question that the problems enunciated by the member for Elgin are very real, but some are almost irreconcilable. There is the question of spraying. As the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) knows, this is a big issue down our way in the fruit district, the fact that some people who have bought out in the country do really suffer allergies which may be aggravated by this and the very real difficulty of how to resolve that problem, because the farmers do have to have the right to spray.

The noise issue is a major problem right now. There may be a precedent set by what is happening in the Niagara Peninsula in the town of Lincoln, where Warren Saunders of Mountainview Road, who has been farming there for 20 years, has been charged by the Ministry of the Environment—this has been in the newspapers and most people know about it—because of his bird banger to keep the birds out of his grapes. This is a man who has a small farm down there, a good farmer and a longtime farmer who has grapes and cherries. The complainant is a person who lives about 300 feet away from the actual site of the bird banger.

It is difficult to find any other method of dispersing the birds from the grapery or from the cherry orchard without a bird banger. You can put up ribbons, which work fine as long as the

wind is blowing, but when the wind goes down, when it is still, the birds sit on these ribbons and pick the cherries or the grapes right off; they do not do any good.

The charges against this man for what took place last fall, in August and September, were just laid this June, and although the complainant may feel he has the right of his property jeopardized, his right to peace and contentment and so on, the simple facts are that this farmer needs that bird banger to protect his crop.

I think there is going to be a major issue on this. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has taken it up, and rightly so; the cost to them of fighting it will probably be at least \$10,000. The real issue is the precedent it is going to set, because if the court makes a decision on this, it means that decision will apply likely across the whole Niagara Peninsula, and for that matter across Ontario.

Then there is the question of smells from farm operations, which has been raised here already. The member for Lincoln is smiling. He knows the case of Warren Wiley, one of the best and largest grape farmers in the Niagara Peninsula. In fact, there are a number of brothers operating the farm. They bought this farm quite a number of years ago. There was a manure pile adjacent to the barn. The man they bought it from moved next door and then took the complaint to the Ministry of the Environment.

He got a letter from the Ministry of the Environment in February telling him he had just a few days to move that manure pile—in February, with six inches of snow on the ground. Ultimately it was resolved, but these are the kinds of things that happen and the kind of harassment farmers have to put up with. There is also the whole issue of dust.

I do not see that this resolution or the speech made by the member for Elgin really dealt with the solution. There are tough decisions that have to be made, and the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) mentioned these. There are legal problems and very tough decisions that have to be made.

Are severances going to be permitted under any circumstances? The Ontario Federation of Labour—I believe I am correct in saying this—has come out and said no; not even for retiring farmers, because those are sold after a period of time. As was the case down on the Wiley farm, even the farmer who had been a farmer on the same farm complained about the smells.

Interjection.

Mr. Swart: Ontario Federation of Labour, did I say? Ontario Federation of Agriculture, I am sorry.

Mr. Andrewes: Severances are a big issue with the Ontario Federation of Labour too.

Mr. Swart: Even severances for members of the family often cause real conflicts; there can be no question about that. Are we going to permit them? That is a controversial matter. Even though the Ontario Federation of Agriculture—I got it right that time—has, and I think rightly so, a fairly tough policy, there are many farmers who do not agree with that. They want the right to sever. As we look across this province at the present time, we find there are all kinds of severances that go on. Drive to almost any populated part of this province and see the number of new houses that are going up.

Are municipalities going to get tough, especially the many municipalities where the majority of the people who live in the municipalities are not farmers and where the farmers have lost the majority vote in those municipalities? Are municipalities going to get tough and pass the necessary legislation? Is the province going to have the courage to do it?

We have to have this right to farm legislation and it is going to have to be tough legislation to protect the farmers. Are governments going to have the courage to do this? The Conservative government did not over the 42 years or it would be in place at the present time.

In the United States, 30 states do have that kind of legislation. They put it in, I may say, with tax concessions, as members likely know. There are no severances in most of those states, not even for a retiring farmer or for members of the family. I suggest that we have to have that kind of legislation here. I know there are rights and wrongs on both sides in these issues. People who have gone out in good faith and bought a house in a rural area are now subject to some degree to nuisances or maybe even worse; but the fact is, when the chips are down, I want to say that the rights of the farmers must take precedence. Everyone else, when it comes to the bottom line, everyone else who lives out in that countryside and is not a farmer to some degree is an interloper and the farmers must have their rights preserved.

Mr. South: I rise to support this proposal. Unfortunately, today many of us want it both ways. We see the people who locate around Pearson International Airport because they buy the land a little cheaper, because they buy their homes a little cheaper, and immediately they are there they want the airport moved. We have the

people who want to move out to the farm and, as the member for Elgin indicated, their view of farming is as farming was 50 years ago, the pastoral scene, the horses pulling a plough and that kind of picture which today does not exist. We have very noisy equipment on farms today and we have odours. The people from the city get out there and immediately something such as that happens, with noisy equipment at five or six o'clock in the morning, and there is no way they want it.

The farmers have to blame themselves in many cases. I remember very well an instance, when I worked a number of years ago with the Ontario Water Resources Commission, where we investigated a complaint about cattle defecating along the beach of a lake. A farmer had sold off the lots to cottagers, and he also wanted, as he had done 50 years ago and as his father had done before him, to drive the cattle to the shore of the lake and let them drink. Cattle are pretty indiscreet on where they defecate and this did not make the beach area too popular. As I say, here was a farmer who in a sense created his own problem.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Elgin had reserved two minutes.

Mr. McNeil: First of all, I want to thank the honourable members who have spoken in support of this resolution. I appreciate that support. I also appreciate the suggestions that have been made by various honourable members and I agree with the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) that the rights of farmers must take precedence.

Once again, thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for ballot item 14. It will be dealt with further at 12 o'clock.

1100

COTTAGE LOT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Bernier moved resolution 19:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing the importance that cottage lots play in the economic development of northern Ontario and the social development of all Ontarians, the government of Ontario should provide crown land in the north for the purpose of cottage lot development by Ontario residents.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member has up to 20 minutes. If he wishes to reserve any of that time, that is in order.

Mr. Bernier: I would like to reserve two or three minutes at the end of the debate.

Tomorrow is Friday, June 19, and tomorrow afternoon we will see our highways literally clogged with Ontarians heading towards their summer cottages right across this province, even here in southern Ontario. But there will be literally thousands of Ontarians who will not have the privilege of going to their summer cottages because of the unavailability of crown lot sites in this province, particularly in northern Ontario.

I think it is significant that today we should have two private members' bills before us for debate that deal with that very valuable resource, land. I think it is a sign of the times that we have this issue before us, and we should be acting on it. As I said, thousands will move out to the lakes and rivers of Ontario to their summer cottages. In fact, in northern Ontario we refer to summer cottages as our summer camps.

I have to admit that over the years there has been a declining number of crown lot subdivisions being developed in this province, hence my resolution. I hope the resolution will receive the support of all members of this House and will capture the sensitivity, the concern and the action of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Before we get into the real issues here, I would like to remind members of a few statistics, and maybe a little trivia, starting with Ontario. I am sure members are very much aware that the word "Ontario" derives from an Indian word that means beautiful lakes and beautiful waters. I think it is significant that we should add that to our debate today, because Ontarians are noted for wanting to go to those 250,000 lakes we have in this great province of ours.

In northern Ontario alone, in the 1986 census, we recorded something like 796,000 people in northern Ontario sitting on 780,000 square kilometres of land, roughly one square kilometre of land for every man, woman and child in northern Ontario. On that point alone, I think denying the right of Ontarians to use that crown land is criminal indeed. I say that with sincerity.

I also say that over the years there has been no really rapid growth or increase in the population of northern Ontario, so we are not suffering from the southern Ontario growth syndrome. Northern Ontario has more land than the state of Texas. Northern Ontario is bigger than the state of California. In fact, in northern Ontario we have 90 per cent of the land mass of this province with only about 10 per cent of its population. One fifth of Ontario's whole area is covered with lakes and rivers, so we have the resource and we have the

need but we need some good policy direction from this government.

This particular resolution and its issue is a very real one to the northerners of Ontario. They want and they are beginning to demand that the government pay attention to a summer cottage lot development program. Living in northern Ontario, as I do and have done for some number of years, and having my own summer cottage, I sometimes feel a little guilty because I sit there in comfort and in the beauty of Big Vermilion Lake, I feel guilty that I have that summer cottage lot that my mother purchased back in 1945.

Nevertheless, I do feel guilty about the people who cannot obtain a summer cottage lot because of the policies and the programs not implemented by this government. As I said before, we have—

Mr. Fontaine: Which government? Tell the truth.

Mr. Bernier: I will get to the point that the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) has pointed out.

We have something like 250,000 lakes. In fact, in my own riding of Kenora we have some 50,000 lakes that, with proper planning, could support a nominal amount of cottage lot development. I would suggest the following policy for the Ministry of Natural Resources to consider. It is one that has been around for some time and one that I put in Orders and Notices for all members to review, to study, and of course today we are debating it.

The policy I would suggest is to make available for lease or sale up to 1,000 lots per year, subject to estimated demand for cottage lots by Ontario residents, under the following conditions. In the vicinity of all northern Ontario towns with a population of 10,000 or greater, preference should be given to the reservation of waterfront crown lands for public use, based on projections and estimates of future demand for day recreation by residents in the nearby communities and estimates of the amount of waterfront land required to meet that demand.

Where there is no official plan or firmly approved ministry land use plan, no further cottage lots are to be provided in such areas on the lake where the existing development exceeds 30 per cent of the lake's capacity as calculated by the ministry. I think 30 per cent is a very realistic figure. I will get to the point of the Lac Seul area.

Lac Seul is a typical example, a lake that is over 100 miles long and has over 10,000 miles of shoreline, and we have something like 30 cottages on that lake. I will divide 30 cottages into 10,000 miles, a distance that is twice the

distance from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia; and there are 30 cottages on that lake. I agree with wilderness and I agree that we have to preserve some of our areas, but I think this is going too far. We should give the opportunity to the people living today to enjoy the waterfront aspect and the summer cottage aspect they desire.

I did some research some time ago and I sent letters to five Ministry of Natural Resources districts in the northwest. I asked the following questions: the number of crown land seasonal cottage lots the district currently has available for sale or lease; the number of crown land seasonal cottage lots developed by each of those districts in the last five years; and the number of seasonal cottage lots developed on crown land which had been sold or leased in that specific district for each of those five years.

I would like to put on the record the answers I received. I might say that it took me some time to get a response from the districts. I think it was something like six months before they did respond; and the districts did not respond directly, they responded to the deputy minister. Nevertheless, I was pleased to get the information and I want to put it on the record because it shows exactly what has happened in the last five years.

1110

In all fairness, I must point out that during the last few years of the previous administration there was a freeze put on the development of crown cottage lots across northern Ontario for the purpose of studying further lakes and doing some proper planning. But something like seven years now have passed, and I think it is time to get on with the job. Surely seven years would give the ministry sufficient time to study those lakes and the needs of northerners and their desire to obtain a simple cottage lot.

The first question concerned the number of crown land seasonal cottage lots that are currently for sale by the ministry. In the Dryden district, which is a large district, they had two summer cottage lots for sale. In Fort Frances, they had 32 conventional lots and six remote lots available. There was none available in the district of Ignace. There was none available in the district of Kenora. In Red Lake, there were 18 conventional lots and several remote lots. In Sioux Lookout district there were no lots available, and in Geraldton there were 20.

The second question I asked concerned the number of crown land seasonal cottage lots developed in the last five years. In the past five

years, the Dryden district of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Fort Frances district of the Ministry of Natural Resources reported that they had developed none. Not one single cottage lot was developed in the last five years.

Ignace had developed 30. The minister was up there just prior to my survey and he became very much aware of the desire of that particular community to embark on a summer cottage lot program for economic development and the economic benefits that would flow. They also reported that the district of Kenora had developed no summer cottage lots in the last five years. Red Lake had developed eight in 1981. Sioux Lookout and Geraldton had not developed one cottage lot in the last five years.

The third question concerned the number of seasonal cottage lots developed on crown land that had been sold or leased in the districts during these five years.

In 1981, Dryden sold or leased two; Fort Frances had none; Ignace had six; Kenora had one; the district of Red Lake had 12; the district of Sioux Lookout had 13; the district of Geraldton had 10.

In 1982, the MNR district of Dryden had three; Fort Frances had none; Ignace had four; Kenora had one; Red Lake had six; Sioux Lookout had one; and Geraldton had four.

In 1983, the MNR district of Dryden sold or leased three lots; Fort Frances had none; Ignace had 12; Kenora had one; Red Lake district had one; and Sioux Lookout had one. Imagine; Geraldton had only eight.

In 1984, Dryden leased three; Fort Frances again had none; Ignace had five; Kenora had none; Red Lake had four; Sioux Lookout had two; and Geraldton had five.

In 1985, Dryden again leased three; Fort Frances still had no lots; Ignace had two; Kenora had one; Red Lake had two; Sioux Lookout had one; and Geraldton had 11.

In the travels I have made across northern Ontario, the question of summer cottage lots comes up on a very regular basis. The town of Ear Falls, as my colleague the member for Cochrane North will attest, has been striving to get a summer cottage lot development on the north end of Lac Seul.

Mr. Fontaine: For 15 years.

Mr. Bernier: That is right. They have been asking for a small summer cottage lot development, not a lot of lots. They said five to 10 over a five-year basis would satisfy their needs. Remember that the Lac Seul basin is about 100 miles long and, as I said earlier, it has about

10,000 miles of shoreline. I see nothing wrong with the development of a small summer cottage lot project at the north end of Lac Seul and at the south end of Lac Seul, to satisfy the needs of the local residents. I am not promoting the sale of summer cottage lots to nonresidents of this province, but there is a need and I think that need has to be addressed.

I must say that the possessive attitude of the Ministry of Natural Resources has to go. Over the years they have taken a very possessive attitude, and I think it is indefensible that they would look to crown land as their domain. I have been a strong believer that crown land, one of our most valuable resources, is a real asset and should be used in that direction and not be a liability to the taxpayers of this province.

It is a liability now because we have to care for it and protect it. It could be sold off in a very planned manner, one that would create economic activity with the development of a cottage lot program and bring some economic development to the needy communities of northern Ontario. It is fair to say that living in northern Ontario and having a summer cottage lot go hand in hand. It is a part of our way of life.

I urge the minister to look at the issue, to shed his possessive attitude with regard to crown land and open up the crown land to Ontario residents. In fact, I would go one step further and say there are many small entrepreneurs in northern Ontario who look for hobby farms. They want to live outside the small communities. They want to have a small farming operation, maybe some cows and chickens, a few pigs that would help them in their way of life.

But I can say that people have told me they will never go to an MNR office again and ask for crown land because they literally get laughed at. The staff just look at them and say, "We have not sold crown land for the last five, six or eight years and we do not intend to sell any more." For commercial purposes permission is granted for the development of a particular industry, but for the individual to get a piece of crown land in northern Ontario sometimes is practically impossible.

We have been so possessive that waterfront lots in the Kenora area which are totally undeveloped—no roads, no services, nothing at all, just a bare, barren lot—now sell for up to \$20,000. Roads must be installed, but many people buy these lots and take on the responsibility of putting in the services themselves. With the massive amount of crown land that we have in

northern Ontario we should be taking a more positive and open attitude towards it.

I want to put on the record the names of a number of people in the Sioux Lookout-Hudson area. One gentleman, Clem Jung, made a point of going around and in two days gathered the names of people who were interested in obtaining a summer cottage lot on the south end of Lac Seul. I will run through them quickly.

Clem Jung, Ulli Stobbe, André Martensen, Dave Williams, Bill Dunstan, Gord Hill, Ray Lacroix, Niel Madsen, Victor Ciurko, Trent Ciurko, Rick Hendrickson, George Allen, John Bernier, Dave Allen, Ronny Eliote, Alvin Haney, Rick Tinney, James Ayotte, Harry Glena, Kurt Fender, Cecil Breton, Peter Breton, Ray and Mary Trocha, Don May, Gary Lapworth, Barbara Budzinski and Kerry Glena, Sylvester Kiepek, Don Starratt, who lived in the area for some 60 years, Don Metza, Len Metza, Wallace Mulholland, Hubert Moe, Garth and Brad Hyslop, Bernard Oakley, Steven Turetski, William Makahnouk, Donald Fenelon, Richard Czekaj, Barry Oakley, Ian Oakley, Stephan Csuzdi, Roger Oakley, Dave and Irene Starratt, Richard George, Michael George, Robert McClendon, Steve Bugera, Mike Bugera, Bill Bugera and John Nenka.

Those names were gathered in two days in the Sioux Lookout-Hudson area, people who desired a summer cottage lot on the bottom end of Lac Seul. These people have lived there all their lives, and I think they are entitled to some kind of consideration. The need is there, there is no question about it. We have the resource. The people who reside in northern Ontario—and I am sure it is the same right across not only the northwest but also in the Thunder Bay area, the Chapleau area and, I suspect, in the Cochrane area and the Hearst area—these people, by their nature, tend to want to be beside the crystal clear waters of northern Ontario.

We are asking that the members who will speak on this particular matter support the resolution. I am hopeful that we can get some action because the minister himself has indicated that a summer cottage lot program across northern Ontario of the size I have suggested would pump about \$7 million to \$8 million into the economy of northern Ontario on practically an annual basis.

When you think that a summer cottage lot today costs anywhere from \$10,000 to \$35,000, and take into account the ongoing expense that is incurred—as I know, because I have one—with the development of a summer cottage lot, it adds to

the economic development and diversification of the small areas of northern Ontario. It is a real need; it is a positive one. I think the time has come to take a more realistic view with respect to the disposition and management of crown land as it relates to the development of summer cottage lots in northern Ontario.

1120

The Deputy Speaker: The member wishes to reserve one minute and 15 seconds.

Mr. Wildman: I rise in support of the resolution presented by the member for Kenora. As members will know, I was a member of the Advisory Committee on Resource Dependent Communities in Northern Ontario, the so-called Rosehart committee appointed by the then Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the member for Cochrane North.

One of the recommendations we made in that committee was that crown land cottage lot development in northern Ontario be implemented as a way of pumping resources and money into the economy of northern Ontario. My colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. Pierce) was also a member of that committee. We saw that as one potential approach to improving the economy of the north.

With regard to the resolution presented by the member for Kenora, I certainly am sympathetic to his position that this should be for Ontario residents, he knows the northwest better than I; however, I would not personally be opposed to other Canadian citizens, people from Manitoba for instance, who might want to purchase cottage lots in northern Ontario. I would not be opposed to allowing Canadian residents to obtain cottage lots for development in our part of Ontario. It would benefit the economy of the north and it would not alienate the ownership by having foreign residents purchase cottage lots. They would still be Canadians.

I want to emphasize, however, that there is a need for planning. We on the Rosehart committee recognized this and I think the Ministry of Natural Resources recognizes it. As the member for Kenora mentioned, the previous government imposed a freeze on the sale of cottage lots on crown land in northern Ontario because it believed there was a need for the development of lake management plans prior to the development of subdivisions for seasonal lots for camps, and I agree with that.

I had some problem with the approach of the previous government. I think it was when the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) was the Minister of Natural Resources. He imposed a

freeze and said we must have planning before we could develop a subdivision, but then he did not provide any funds to the planners so they could do the planning. We had a freeze. People could not obtain the lots they wanted and there was no money for the planning so the lots could then be developed. I thought that was a most unfortunate approach by the previous government.

I understand the new government is going to allow the Ministry of Natural Resources districts to sell this year some of the lots it already had on stream before the freeze and that it is going to provide them with funds so they can do the planning that would be necessary to develop more lots for camps.

However, I am concerned that it is going to take some time to get that funding. For instance, in the Wawa district in my area, people living in the Wawa-Dubreuilville area have been attempting to get lots for years. They would like to get lots on some of the big lakes such as Wabaton-gushi Lake, Wabatong Lake as it is called, or even some of the smaller lakes around the area; but ministry staff has not been able to provide them with these lots.

They have said, "There is a freeze on." We would say, "When is the freeze going to be finished?" They would say, "We have to do the lake management plan first." "When is the lake management plan going to be completed?" "We have not started it yet." "Why have you not started it yet?" "Because we cannot get any funds for it." "Have you applied for the funds?" "Yes, we have applied for the funds for the last three years and each time we did not get them from the region." Why did they not get it from the region? Because the region did not get it from the overall budget of the ministry.

If this government is going to provide the funds, I urge it to provide the funds across the north so that each district can commence the lake management plans that must be completed. We cannot allow the development of lots for camps on the lakes of the north unless we have analysed how many lots each lake can sustain. Some lakes are small and shallow and it would not be ecologically acceptable for all the land on those lakes to be developed. Other lakes are large, deep lakes and could sustain many more lots. We cannot determine that without the planning. We cannot tell how many lots might be made available.

We also do not know what areas should be reserved for remote cottage lot development as opposed to lots developed where we might have road access, for instance. Those kinds of

questions have to be answered and they can only be answered through the planning process. The planning process can only be commenced and completed if the government is prepared to ensure that there is funding for each district. I urge the government to ensure that.

To be frank, I am disappointed that we do not have before us any members of the government to hear this debate. The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) is not here. I see the member for Cochrane North, who is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) here. He obviously has an interest in this. I know he is concerned about it and I am glad to see him here.

Mr. McGuigan: I am parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources.

Mr. Wildman: I am sorry; the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources is here. I am glad to see that.

I am very concerned about one aspect of this as it might be interpreted in the north. I commend the member for Kenora for putting in the point about residency. I said earlier that I thought it might be expanded to Canadian residents, but I am concerned that in some areas of my part of the province up to 90 per cent to 97 per cent of the land is owned by non-Canadians. Usually, it is owned by Americans, but in some cases it is not Americans. In some cases, there are Europeans. German interests have purchased a lot of land. In most cases, obviously in the past few years, it is private land they have been purchasing. I am concerned about the amount of land in prime development areas in terms of good waterfront property that is going into the hands of non-Canadians.

If we get the development we are asking for here, I hope it is part of the policy that this development should benefit Canadians in terms of the people who can obtain the lots. Even subsequently, if they develop a camp and in some future year might like to sell it, I hope there will be some provision for at least giving first option, if not more than that, to Canadian residents for the purchase of those lots.

In northern Ontario, we live and work a long distance from the amenities many people, in the Toronto area for instance, take for granted. We do not have them and in many cases we do not really want them, but what we do want is the opportunity to enjoy our resources. We live in a very beautiful part of the province. There is a large amount of crown land. It really does not make sense for the people who live in the towns and cities of northern Ontario not to be able to get

out and enjoy the lakes, rivers and forests of our part of the province.

For that matter, as a northerner, I know northerners would welcome people from southern parts of Ontario and other parts of the province to come, purchase property, build camps and make their summer homes, and in some cases even winter recreational homes, in northern Ontario. We would welcome that kind of development. It would not only be an infusion of capital into the northern economy, but it would also improve the relationships of people and improve the way of life of both northerners and people from other parts of the province.

I certainly support this proposal. I supported it as a member of the Rosehart committee and I support it as a representative of a large northern riding where we could develop a lot of cottage lots.

1130

Mr. Fontaine: It is a pleasure for me to be here today to speak on this resolution. After my first trip as a minister, the first thing I did when I came back was to tell the Premier (Mr. Peterson) about the problem of this land in northern Ontario on which the previous government had put a freeze. The first thing I heard from Reeve Leschuk, from the mayor of Kenora and from the reeve of Ignace in my friend's riding was this land thing.

I have the same problem at my place. I recall that with the previous government and these lots, it was always based on local demand. I recall that one time when the lots were given, they always gave you a lot behind a rock or in a swamp. When people were trying to get land, a cottage lot where there was a beach or something else, there was always an excuse. We did not create that; I guess it was created through the years. That has passed.

I would like to point out that this government is aware of the impact that cottages and cottaging could have on the northern Ontario economy. As members know, I pushed that when I was the minister. Last winter, before my holidays, there was an economic committee on northern development. It was a small committee. A former deputy minister worked on it with Mary Mogford and my deputy minister at that time, George Tough. The Premier was behind this too. He agreed that land in northern Ontario should be used as a development tool.

As all honourable members here today surely know, the face of the northern Ontario economy has changed considerably in recent years. Many resource companies have been forced to rational-

ize operations, to lay off employees and in some cases to shut down operations. Although economic conditions are improving in some parts of the north, unemployment in the region as a whole is still several percentage points higher than the national average.

This situation has been one of this government's greatest concerns. A number of initiatives have been undertaken to improve the economic wellbeing of northern Ontarians, not just for a few months or years but also for the long term. We are making a concerted effort to assist our northern communities in their goal of broadening their economic base.

One of the initiatives this government is looking at to help the north involves using crown land as a tool to promote economic development in that region. About 87 per cent of all the land in northern Ontario belongs to the crown. We all know that. We know there is great potential for the people of northern Ontario to use crown land as a tool to develop and diversify the economy.

Recognizing this, my colleague the Minister of Natural Resources—and the Premier through Northern Development and Mines—is taking a close look at the MNR present-day policy concerning crown land. He has already taken steps with the assistance of local northern development councils. I want to refer to that, because lately everything the northern councils are working on comes here on these Thursday mornings as a resolution from our friends in the opposition: on gas, on Hydro and on this.

We spent the winter and we reported to the Minister of Natural Resources on May 29 on the issue we are looking at. We were looking at cottage lot development because we had to study the land tenure and ownership. The northern development councils looked at that and reported—the report is already done—on resource access roads, small crown land rehabilitation initiatives—these were the highlights they looked at—tourism, waste disposal—we have to figure that out because it is a problem—crown land camping, municipal development, agricultural development, wild game—there are all kinds of ideas we had—and programs and practices of other ministries.

At the same time, we have to look at our local natives, because they are involved in this; we forget that. We have to look at what we are going to do. The northern development councils' review of this matter is intended to be an ongoing exercise. This mandate was given to the NDCs by the Premier in Sault Ste. Marie last fall with the blessing of Ministry of Natural Resources

people. We worked closely with the Minister of Tourism and Recreation and with the Minister of Natural Resources on this. The report is already done.

This week I was at Marathon and Thunder Bay. We are still discussing this, because we want to be sure that the ownership condition we are talking about is what the people of northern Ontario want. We do not want something to be imposed on us. I have nothing against Toronto but I want this thing to be the ideas and initiatives of the people of northern Ontario, to see what they feel inside as to what they want.

In addition to all this are fish, fur-farming, peat extraction and processing and tourism enterprises. The use of water power to generate electricity would also be encouraged on crown land. These projects reflect a fundamental change in how crown land tenure in Ontario is handled. Policies are being reviewed to make them more responsive to local initiatives, to provide economic benefits, and in turn to create jobs in northern Ontario. I know the Minister of Natural Resources is very enthusiastic about the potential of offering crown land cottage lots as a springboard for economic growth.

In southern Ontario, many studies have proved the economic benefits of cottaging. These studies show that each cottage built brings many thousands of dollars worth of direct and indirect benefits into the local economy through the cost of labour and building materials. There are also long-term, ongoing benefits. Cottage owners buy groceries, gasoline and other products from local businesses. The Ministry of Natural Resources will be conducting a market analysis of cottaging in the north that will determine the most likely markets for cottages. I am pleased to inform you that the Minister of Natural Resources will then be making an announcement in the near future concerning the offering of crown land cottage lots in northern Ontario.

Meanwhile, the government also plans to revise our crown land policies to assist and encourage entrepreneurs. We will be looking at the possibility of providing long-term tenure on crown land for tourist operators who have made a major investment or wish to extend their operations.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is also looking at the extension of its crown land recreation program to take in the entire northern part of the province. Under this program, now in place in northwestern Ontario, nonresidents are charged a small fee for the privilege of camping on crown land. This fee reflects the govern-

ment's belief that nonresidents should share the cost of maintaining Ontario crown recreation resources. Most important, charging this fee has encouraged nonresidents to start using private facilities. This means all residents of northern Ontario will share in the benefits of this program.

We know that crown land can be used as a powerful and effective tool for encouraging economic development and diversity in the north. At the same time, however, we must not rush in without first carefully examining the potential effect of the new crown land policy. While the government intends to act decisively on this issue, which has been stalled for many years as the honourable member so well knows, we refuse to act carelessly. That is why we asked the NDCs to report. Our crown land resources are too important to be treated lightly. It is therefore vital that we follow the full process of careful preparation and conservation before we act, and that is what we are doing. That way we will know that we will be able to harness safely the full economic potential of crown land in the north.

Mr. Pierce: It is indeed a pleasure for me to stand and support the resolution of the member for Kenora with respect to crown land. I hear the member for Cochrane South—

Mr. Fontaine: Cochrane North.

Mr. Pierce: The member for Cochrane North; I am sorry. It is interesting, because it is not that many weeks ago that the member for Cochrane North stood up and said—in fact, he is quoted in the North Bay Nugget as saying it—we should open up crown land for Americans.

1140

Mr. Fontaine: I've got nothing against them.

Mr. Pierce: The resolution that is proposed by the member for Kenora is in fact that we should, first of all, open up crown land for Ontario residents.

Mr. Rowe: He doesn't sell out to the Americans.

Mr. Pierce: I think certainly we, as legislators in this province, have a commitment to the people of Ontario and a second commitment to the people of Canada and no commitment to the Americans in respect to giving away our lands.

Mr. Fontaine: Read the whole article. You will see. You don't know what I said; you weren't there. I said there should be a small amount for Americans.

Mr. Pierce: I believe northern Ontario residents and residents of Ontario have as much to contribute to the development of northern Ontario.

io and the development of Ontario, certainly, as any American has.

There are thousands and thousands of miles of lakeshore property in northern Ontario, and there are miles and miles of square acres of crown land surrounding the lakes. Unfortunately, for all those Ontario residents who would greatly appreciate the opportunity to own cottages on lakeshores in northern Ontario, this provincial government has a very strong voice that says it is not prepared to do very much.

Mr. Fontaine: I said five per cent American people on the other side.

Mr. Pierce: I have a letter from the Minister of Natural Resources, who in fact summarizes by saying, "The cottage lot program is currently under review and I expect it to be moving forward in the near future." That letter was dated November 28, 1986. We are now in the middle of June and we see no movement whatsoever.

Mr. McGuigan: Did you hear what the man said?

Mr. Pierce: I have heard a lot of the things the member for Cochrane North has said, but I hate to think I would have to base my information on what the member for Cochrane North is saying.

I quote from a letter of a constituent in my riding:

"Dear Jack:

"On October 2, 1986, there was a draw in Atikokan for cottage property lots. In excess of 200 people registered to participate in a draw for three lots."

I heard the member for Cochrane North say the old government used to put up little draws and it used to let people have a chance for a piece of property behind a rock. I would like to note that the date of this letter was October 8, 1986. If I recall rightly, we had a new government in 1986 that was going to do things differently.

The writer goes on to say: "I was not a participant in the draw; however, I was there and observed that some individuals had as many as 10 registrants seeking a lot on their behalf. On the other hand, I also observed people with young families who would have liked to have acquired a lot to develop with their children as they grow to maturity. Having had the opportunity of developing lakeshore property while my family was young probably made me more conscious of the wishes and the desires of these young couples. I felt for them and was disappointed for them.

"It seems to me that we live in an area that is very sparsely populated and with countless lakes available for development by people who wish to have a lakeshore retreat. Surely there is enough

land so that people, residents in Ontario who wish, may acquire some property.

"As well as providing for the needs of a large number of people, I visualize both social and economic spinoffs from land development. I suggest that you use your office to encourage the Minister of Natural Resources to make available lakeshore property at moderate prices for people wishing to acquire land."

Here again is an Ontario resident. That is signed by Mr. Fontana, who is also a member of the northern development council chaired by the member for Cochrane North.

We have to recognize the importance that cottage lot development has for the small, isolated communities in the north. Cottage lot owners bring with them a demand for the local services. The amount of service required by people building cottages on northern retreats has already been talked about here earlier today.

Something that has not been mentioned here today is something that is very important to areas in northern Ontario. We all understand and appreciate that in an urban area, when your family grows up the children marry the girl next door or the guy next door and they build a house next door or they build a house down the street.

Under the present system we have in Ontario, under this present government, when you live in a rural area in Ontario your sons and daughters may grow up and they may marry the girl or boy next door, but they certainly do not build next door, because they do not have any access to any property.

It is a known fact in many areas that have been developed to promote the tourist industry, that those families in fact lose their young people, that it is just another method of making sure the young people do not stay in northern Ontario. We do not give them an opportunity to build a home or, in actual fact, to locate in our communities.

Considering that tourism and service industries are two of the largest employers in northern Ontario, it is not difficult to recognize the importance that increased traffic through the north would have on the local economy. The committee on the resource-dependent communities in northern Ontario recognized in its recommendations the importance that a major influx of tourists would have on employment opportunities for the young and the unemployed.

I strongly believe that all Ontario residents should have the opportunity to purchase lakeshore property in the north. This government should not stand in the way of residents who wish to invest in their future by purchasing property

that will serve them in their retirement years as well as in their youth and give them an opportunity to grow with their families.

The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) indicated in his remarks that he thought perhaps we could extend the resolution so that residents of Canada would be able to purchase property in Ontario. I believe our first obligation and the first opportunity for the purchase of land is to the Ontario residents already living there.

At present in the north we have problems of campers wandering throughout the region, camping at random wherever they can pitch their tent. We talk about the crown land camping arrangement we now have. It does not take very long for a person living in a region to find out where the crown land camping area is limited by its boundaries; it only requires campers to go down the road another 500 yards and they are outside the boundaries and camp anywhere.

The government should also remember that our provincial parks in southern Ontario surrounding the Golden Horseshoe are usually 70 per cent booked for the summer season months before anyone has a chance to go on a holiday. Certainly, anyone travelling on the highways knows how difficult it is to get into a provincial campground on a weekend, because those sites are already booked ahead by residents in southern Ontario who see no opportunity to purchase crown land and no opportunity to develop a cabin. As a result, they go in, they book their camping spot for the whole year and that is in fact what they use for their camping.

It is almost impossible to get a camping site in one of these provincial parks for a weekend in the summer, unless you show up on a Wednesday or Thursday to pitch your tent. Is this the type of provincial commitment we are looking for in our province? We recognize there are thousands of square miles of provincial parks in the north, but this does not alleviate the pressure in the southern Ontario provincial parks, because residents who do not own a cottage in the north are not likely to drive hundreds of miles every weekend in the summer to camp in a provincial park.

However, those campers would drive hundreds of miles every weekend if they owned a cottage in the north; and these cottage owners would bring with them demand on local services, they would bring with them a need for the additional cost of getting established up there. Also, they would provide some activity in northern Ontario which is so desperately needed.

I would also like to address the problem of residents who have been breaking the regulations

of the Ministry of Natural Resources by extending their rights as houseboat owners, houseboat suppliers, and those who own trapper's cabins. The Ministry of Natural Resources has taken it upon itself, where trappers have cabins and like to use them in the summer, to extend its policy by saying, "If you use your trapper's cabin for any more than that week before trapping season and the week after, we will burn the cabin out and you will no longer be able to use it, even as a trapper's cabin."

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Your time has expired. The member for Sault Ste. Marie.

1150

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am pleased to have the opportunity to support this resolution by the member for Kenora. I think it is in the interest of the province and particularly those of us from northern Ontario. The potential of economic development in the north from development of cottage lots and the dedication of some of our crown land to that purpose would be of benefit to all of us.

I suggest also that there not be a restriction to Ontario residents only, but as my colleague the member for Algoma suggested that such development be made available for cottages and ownership for any Canadian resident. I think the restriction on ownership by foreign residents should stay in place and should be an element to control the development of those properties so that they stay in the hands of Canadians, but I do not particularly see a reason for restricting it to Ontario residents only. Certainly, the residents of Manitoba should have the opportunity to have a cottage property in the areas near them in northwestern Ontario.

As far as I am concerned, one of the main reasons I and many of us who love the north so much live in the north is the quality of life we have in the north. In many respects, it is a very different type of life than in southern Ontario. Many of the people in the south do not see the difference or perhaps have not had the opportunity to visit at length or to live in the north.

One of the real differences has to do with the access to the outdoors, the space we have and, in particular, the opportunity to have a second home. It is very usual, not out of place at all, for the average wage earner in a community like mine, Sault Ste. Marie, to have his own cottage. In fact, it is almost an expectation of a steelworker at Algoma Steel that he should have the right and the opportunity to have a cottage within reasonable access distance to his home,

where he can go and spend his summers particularly.

More and more people are using these cottages for recreational activities in other seasons of the year. To a large portion of our population of northern Ontario, those outdoor activities are what makes our life so enjoyable. We are starting to see some restrictions in terms of the access to those properties because of private land being developed, and there are some restrictions.

In fact, most of the property within 30 miles of Sault Ste. Marie is privately owned. For those of us in the Sault, there is quite considerable land available; but there are a lot of Sault residents who spend a lot of time in their bush camps in the Agawa area, up the Algoma Central Railway, up along the highway to Chapleau or in the Wawa area. Once you get past Batchawana, going along the Trans-Canada Highway, there is very little private land available for cottage lot development.

With sensible restrictions and sensible planning of the lakefront development, we can pursue this opportunity in a reasonable, sensible manner and give more residents of our communities the chance to have that opportunity.

If residents outside northern Ontario are given and see the chance of what life can be in terms of their summer vacations, and if they want to develop a cottage property in northern Ontario, there is a real opportunity for economic development, bringing a lot of spending into the north in the development of properties and building of summer homes or cottages—camps as we call them—in the Sault area.

The areas are absolutely beautiful. Fishing is great, and hunting; skiing in the winter. Surprising to a lot of southern residents, even the swimming is great on most of the lakes in northern Ontario; even Lake Superior, where my family has had a cottage all my life. As children, we always spent our summers out at Goulais Bay, which is about a 25-mile drive from the Sault.

My dad was always able to commute back and forth to work in a 45-minute drive, which is probably less time than it takes the average driver in the Metropolitan Toronto area to drive in to work from a suburban home. That was considered a reasonable distance to drive that northerners put up with in the summer. Of course, year-round, we have our own home in the city as well.

I would like to see us all have those kinds of opportunities available to us in the north. The property and land restrictions, and the population

of southern Ontario, does not make that opportunity available in this area. We would like to extend that opportunity for them to be able to come up to the north and spend some of their earnings in the north and develop property there.

I think we have to have some restrictions, though, on the use of the land, particularly in terms of the amounts that are sold. There is a huge area of crown land in the north and there is no reason the sale of cottage lots for private development should require the use of very significant portions of land. I do not think we want large amounts going to developers for large-scale development. We want the restrictions down to family-sized parcels of property with restricted amounts of lakefront on them.

In particular, we have to prevent speculation in the property. Perhaps there have to be some kind of rules in terms of the need to do some kind of positive development on any property that is sold. We want to have assurances that the property is not for speculation, that there will be a cottage developed on the property, that someone is going to build a home or use it for camping purposes or a hobby farm, as the member for Kenora has suggested as a possibility as well.

It is unfortunate that a complete freeze was put on the development of crown land for cottage property by the former administration about half a dozen years ago. The reason for it was certainly a valid one in terms of wanting to ensure that we have proper water and lake management plans in place to protect the environment and ecology of the area in its development. There is a serious problem with some lakes which already have a lot of property sold on them; there is no way we could have more development without seriously impacting those lakes. That is particularly true in southern Ontario and in some areas of the near north. In some of the more wide open spaces, with proper, responsible planning, there is no reason we cannot undertake a major initiative in this area.

Finally, I want to ask that the government look seriously at taking action on this, that they look at it not only as a way to use a limited portion of a valuable resource we have in the north for the benefit of the residents of Ontario, but also as a real potential for economic stimulus to northern Ontario in bringing more people into the north on a seasonal basis and the spending that would result from that.

I would like to support this resolution very strongly and hope that everyone in the House will as well.

Mr. Speaker: It appears we have just 75 seconds left for the member for Kenora.

Mr. Bernier: If I may, I would like to express my appreciation to all members of the House who spoke on this resolution for their very strong support. I sense a common thrust and a common feeling from northerners and from the residents of Ontario who do not have a summer cottage lot.

As the members stand in their places to vote on this resolution—and I hope it is passed unanimously—I am sure they will think about the thousands and thousands of Ontarians who, tomorrow afternoon, Friday afternoon, will not have the opportunity to travel to a summer cottage lot. If this resolution is carried, and if that government moves on this resolution, it too will be satisfied and those members will be happy Ontarians from here on in.

Mr. Speaker: That concludes the allotted time for private members' public business.

RIGHT TO FARM

Mr. Speaker: Mr. McNeil has moved resolution 14. If any members are opposed to a vote on this motion, will they please rise?

There being none, is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

COTTAGE LOT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Bernier has moved resolution 15. If any members are opposed to a vote on this motion, will they please rise?

There being none, is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12:02 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Before we begin routine proceedings, I would ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join with me in recognizing in the Speaker's gallery Danylo Shumuk.

Mr. Shumuk is a recently released political prisoner, having been first captured by the Soviet secret police in 1945 and subsequently sentenced to death. His sentence was commuted and in 1956 he was released, only to be rearrested in 1957. He gained his freedom in 1967 and again in 1972 was arrested and sentenced to 10 years in a labour camp and five years in exile.

Mr. Shumuk was released in January of this year but was placed under house arrest following a visit to the Canadian embassy in Moscow in February. On May 11, he was granted permission to leave the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and, finally, on May 24, Mr. Shumuk arrived in Canada.

Mr. Shumuk, born in the Ukraine, is accompanied today by his brother and officials of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Shumuk to the legislative chamber.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WORLD YOUTH WRESTLING
CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. McCague: From July 5 to 11, Collingwood will be hosting the World Youth Wrestling Championship, the only international sports event being held in Ontario this summer. So far, there are 15 nations competing: the People's Republic of China, Israel, Taiwan, France, Italy, Switzerland, India, Turkey, Peru, Japan, New Zealand, the United States, Britain, Belgium and, of course, Canada. More nations are expected, for a total of 700 athletes, all competing for world titles in cadet, junior freestyle and Graeco-Roman styles of wrestling.

Subject to approval by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, cable television companies across Canada will be able to pick up via satellite four two-hour programs featuring the title matches. These competitors are all national champions. They will be vying for gold medals in each of 11 weight categories in four championships.

By competing in the World Youth Wrestling Championship, they will be preparing for the 1992 Olympic Games, thus providing Ontario with an opportunity to see the Olympic champions of the future involved in one of the original Olympian sports. Nationally, Canada is among the top 10 nations in amateur wrestling. This will also provide Ontario residents with a chance to see in action the Canadian team, many of whom come from Ontario. Everyone is welcome.

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

Mr. Foulds: The desperate need for speech language pathologists in this province, especially in northern Ontario, can be illustrated by the following:

1. Elliot Lake has failed to get a speech language pathologist after three years of trying.
2. Preschool children in Thunder Bay wait nine months for an assessment and intervention. A crucial learning year turns into anger, frustration and despair.
3. Many school boards do not have speech language pathologists at all.
4. Stroke victims simply do not recover their speech.

In February, I made three specific suggestions to the Premier (Mr. Peterson). The Premier committed himself at that time to a solution to the problem within a week or two. His deputy minister in the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines said: "As soon as possible, we will brief you fully. We will make a public announcement very shortly thereafter." Four months later, zero has happened—zippo, zilch, zero.

One of the ministers involved, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), wrote me on June 5, saying, "I cannot provide you with an immediate resolution." The Premier's credibility is on the line. Did the Premier mislead the House, or is he incapable? Cannot even the Premier make Community and Social Services, Health, Northern Development and Mines and Skills Development work together? Where is his leadership when he needs it?

PIT BULL TERRIERS

Mr. McGuigan: I would like to direct the attention of this House to a very disturbing incident that involved pit bull terriers—a vicious, aggressive, unpredictable and deadly dangerous breed of dog.

The pit bull dog is a breed that has been raised solely for fighting purposes and has often attracted the wrong type of owner. There are indications that drug traffickers and other criminals tend to possess this breed to feel more secure in their activities. One of these dogs can have a policeman by the throat more quickly than a policeman can draw his service revolver.

The most recent, though by no means isolated, tragic occurrence took place last weekend in California, when a two-and-one-half-year-old boy was killed by a pit bull dog guarding his owner's marijuana crop. This is the 11th gruesome death—seven have been children—in an eight-month period in the United States.

Apparently, many people in our province find this dog appealing. Unfortunately, there have already been victims of attacks by these dogs, mostly children and the elderly, and they have been severely—in one case, fatally—injured.

The situation warrants immediate action. We cannot passively sit back and wait to see what will happen next in our province. Serious measures should be considered, including a total ban of this breed in Ontario. All owners of pit bull terriers should be held criminally responsible if their dogs in any way endanger a person's life.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Pope: I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Legislature to the presence inside and outside the Legislature today of constituents from the riding of Cochrane South, the city of Timmins, led by Jean Larcher. They are the Victims of Mining Environment. Over the years, many of us, including myself, have represented these individuals and their families in compensation hearings for dependency benefits when their husbands or loved ones have died of lung cancer. We have been unsuccessful.

In 1979, I revealed in this Legislature the existence of the Wigle study, which clearly pointed to a higher-than-normal incidence of lung cancer in the Timmins area. The result was the Muller study, which has proven that the high incidence of lung cancer is caused by working conditions.

The Industrial Disease Standards Panel has made some recommendations to the Workers' Compensation Board. I reject those recommendations. I call upon the Ministry of Labour and this government to change the standards.

I say to the minister, give the widows and the families of miners dead from lung cancer the compensation that is due to them. Join with all of

us, I ask the members of the assembly, in fighting for justice for these families. The government should put in place a just and fair compensation system that will immediately give compensation to the widows and their families. They have waited far too long.

TENANTS HOT LINE

Mr. Reville: On behalf of the thousands of tenants in the city of York and on behalf of the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande), who has been called away on a family emergency, I want to express my disappointment at the announcement made to cut Tenants Hot Line funding. Tenants Hot Line is a community legal clinic in the city of York, established 10 years ago to fight for tenants.

The member for Oakwood has told us about tenants on Warwick, Plaxton, Vaughan, Marlee and Bathurst who fought against landlords who wanted to convert affordable apartments to luxury and condominium units. Those efforts supported our fight for Bill 11 and the preservation of rental housing.

The management review conducted by Professor Wardell was requested by the clinic's board and the clinic funding committee as a step in working out the problems. After a year, the management review was completed. As I understand it, the report was never circulated or used as a document for discussion but only as a tool to close the clinic.

There is no doubt that the people of York need Tenants Hot Line. York has 27,000 rental units. At a time when we are experiencing a record low vacancy rate and hear daily stories about landlords evicting tenants illegally or charging outrageous key fees, it is irresponsible for this government to leave York tenants unprotected.

1340

VISITORS

Ms. Caplan: There are some guests in the members' gallery whom I would like to introduce today: Councillor Jim McGuffin, chairman of the transportation committee from the city of North York and representative of ward 11; and Councillor Paul Sutherland, chairman of the development and economic growth committee from the city of North York, representing ward 14, which is a significant part of my riding of Oriole. They have delivered to me some petitions which I will be delivering to the Legislature during the appropriate time.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Does it have anything to do with the subway?

Ms. Caplan: It has a little bit to do with the rapid transit subway line along Sheppard Avenue, and members can look forward to that during petitions.

As well, I would like to introduce Dr. Cheng Yu-Tung, who is in our members' gallery today. Dr. Cheng is currently the chairman and managing director of both publicly listed New World Development Co. Ltd., a major property holding and developing company in Hong Kong, and Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Ltd. He is also a director of the Hang Seng Bank Ltd., a member of the Hong Kong and Chinese banking corporations.

He is here to receive a doctorate in law from the University of Toronto. We offer him our congratulations and introduce him to the assembly.

GAME AND FISH ACT

Mr. Bernier: I would like to make a few comments about our uncaring Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). On December 2, 1986, the minister introduced Bill 166, An Act to amend the Game and Fish Act. At that time, the minister stated that forward-looking legislation was needed to assist Ontario's wildlife and fisheries resources management and regulation.

Although we on this side of the House were concerned about certain sections of this bill, we looked forward to its debate. Various interest groups concerned about this bill also anticipated its debate. But what happened with Bill 166? Nothing. It was dropped off Order and Notices at the end of the last session, it has not been reintroduced this session, and the minister has not commented on its disappearance.

As such, if the minister does indeed care about the problems of wildlife and fisheries resources, he should show some leadership, direction and action by bringing back Bill 166 and its relevant amendments for debate in the House.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

DISASTER RELIEF

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Last May, I promised a major review of the Ontario disaster relief assistance program. The intent was to see if we could make it better.

Mr. Speaker: Order. One member said other members have not received a copy. Is that correct? I understand it will there in a moment. We might just wait.

The members have now received copies. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Last May, I promised a major review of the Ontario disaster relief assistance program. The intent was to see if we could make it better. The review was conducted during the spring and summer months. Input was sought from previous local disaster relief committee members, claimants, fund-raisers, adjusters, insurance representatives, municipal officials and ministry staff. That review indicated that the program was generally well accepted but required some changes.

Aujourd'hui, j'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer qu'en nous inspirant de cette étude, nous avons apporté certaines modifications aux directives portant sur le programme de secours aux sinistrés de l'Ontario.

Les directives actuelles prévoient une assistance aux personnes qu'un sinistre placerait dans une situation financière très difficile.

The dollar-to-dollar matching formula will initially apply in all cases. The province will subsequently consider a higher matching formula only in those instances where damages are extremely severe or if the community's resources are limited. Another change will allow the local committee to make an agreement with a coordinating agency to undertake certain administrative functions, such as issuing receipts. The agency will be reimbursed by the ministry from the disaster relief fund.

Les nouvelles directives prévoient également que les comités désireux d'engager un évaluateur doivent le faire par appel d'offre public ou après avoir obtenu au moins trois soumissions écrites.

Le ministère élaborera un manuel de procédures pour aider les comités locaux de secours aux sinistrés à faire face à des questions telles que l'indemnisation et les appels dans les cas de difficultés financières extrêmes.

These are just some of the major changes. Copies of the guidelines being tabled here today will be sent to all municipalities and are also available from the ministry. I believe that these changes will help to make the program operate more efficiently.

RESPONSES

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. McCague: I thank the minister for the guidelines that he has produced or had produced for him.

As he well knows, the area I represent in the province, as was Barrie, was badly hit a couple of years ago. I know there are still some unresolved

matters in that particular case. They may be resolved to the satisfaction of the minister and the ministry, but there are people who thought they were going to get assistance through the Ministry of Natural Resources or through conservation authorities with the money being forwarded to them by the government. Those things still are not looked after to the satisfaction of quite a few of the people I represent.

The minister will be well aware that in the last tornado disaster, the government was not required to put up a dollar for a dollar. The contributions received from citizens of the province were greater than the amount that was necessary for the government to put forward. I have not had time to read this, having just received it, but I hope those matters are addressed in this report. I hope we do not have any more disasters, but if we do, that we do have a formula to go by.

I know that many people volunteered not only their money and time, but those who were on the disaster relief committee spent many hours, weeks and months without any compensation. It was a tremendous job that demanded a lot of one sort of putting one's neck on the line. That has been pointed out to the minister by several people who were involved. I would hope there is some way to compensate them or to take away from them some of the burden of the aftermath that may well happen in some cases and at some time.

However, we do welcome the guidelines and hope they do address all of these problems.

Mr. Brandt: On the same topic, I would like to simply indicate to the minister that although we welcome the comments he has made today in his release, the types of disasters that are covered are not clearly outlined in his announcement.

From my discussions with municipalities, the problem they face is that they are not clear on what the government feels is the type of program it will respond to in a co-operative way where it will match funds using the dollar-for-dollar formula the minister has outlined in his statement today.

Some of the disasters my colleague commented on, those that occurred in Barrie as an example, are one type of disaster which could be compensated for in the minister's type of program, but there are many others, such as shoreline relief, that may also require a response on the part of his ministry.

1350

The general feeling among municipalities is that the guidelines that have been in place—and I would hope they would be clearer and more

specific in the future—the current guidelines are too strict and too complicated. It is very difficult to find out when one qualifies for government assistance when a disaster strikes. As we all know, under those circumstances and in those situations, the communities have to respond very quickly, because private and public properties are affected. They have to have a mechanism by which they can move forward immediately to undertake whatever remedial action is absolutely necessary.

The minister has not mentioned the amount of money that may be possible in this program—and I recognize that has to be flexible, because one cannot forecast when a disaster is going to occur—but I would think some money in one line of the budget would be realistic, based on previous experience, so that the minister would have some funds available from the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) to move on very quickly in a situation like this.

I would ask the minister in his review of this program and in the positive steps that he is trying to take—and I compliment him for that—to look at making the guidelines very understandable and remove some of the strictness from the guidelines that has caused complications and confusion in the past.

Mr. Breagh: I want to just briefly touch on some of my concerns. I welcome the tabling of the report today. It does raise some questions in my mind about a mass of guidelines, manuals and procedures, when in effect we need something just a little more direct than that. I view the problems we have run into with the disaster relief assistance program as being ones that are identifiable and ones that we can resolve; and we should, of course, resolve them now, when we are not in the midst of any great controversy over a disaster.

Let me specifically run through my concerns. I am concerned that there is a definition of a disaster, which I believe is almost impossible to do. There is no difference in my mind between a tornado which hits part of central Ontario and a flooding problem which hits somewhere along the shores of Lake Ontario. Ontario has traditionally made distinctions between those two problems, and I do not think the distinctions are real to the people who are hit by those disasters. They certainly exist in a bureaucrat's mind, they certainly can exist in a set of guidelines, but they do not exist to those people who are impacted by these disasters.

Second, though I recognize that there is always going to be a need for basic guidelines as

to what is and is not covered, I want to point out to the minister that in Barrie and other places where disasters have struck, the guidelines have caused immense misery to people. They have not served the population well, so I urge the minister to make whatever guidelines he feels are necessary as clear and as precise as possible.

I am a little bit concerned that we are retaining what is, I suppose, generally looked upon with favour as a dollar-for-dollar provision. The problem is that in many of our communities—I particularly think of Winisk in northern Ontario—the capacity to do fund-raising locally is extremely limited. In that instance a dollar-for-dollar formula, which I understand was not used, was demonstrated as not one which is well-suited to many parts of Ontario.

If you go into rural Ontario, the capacity for raising money locally is certainly substantially different than it would be in a large urban centre, where you could do huge television marathons and things of that nature. I would like the minister to reassess whether that funding formula is a fair and equitable one.

I notice one of the recommendations is to hire a media consultant, I believe the term is, to go and work locally and to hire adjudicators by tender. I would simply put this caution to the minister. Although it might normally be desirable to hire adjudicators by tender, in a disaster you need a fast response to a local problem. In that instance, there might be another way that could be explored that would provide people who have been hit by a disaster with the money they need immediately, as opposed to waiting around in almost a private insurance model.

Finally, I have not had a chance to go through all the assessment that is in the report, but I do know this and I want to get it on the record: many of our municipalities in the midst of this kind of disaster have faced substantial setbacks, for example, in terms of massive roadbuilding campaigns that have to be undertaken immediately. Before one can talk about redeveloping a subdivision, somebody has to put in place water and sewer lines, transportation facilities and hydro lines. All that has to happen very quickly or any kind of relief program that might assist people to get back into their homes is not going to work. In many cases, and I think Barrie is an example, there were other municipally owned and operated facilities that were affected by the disaster.

That is all an argument for saying that the dollar-for-dollar stuff has to be looked at in a somewhat different light, that one has to be able

to have a little more flexibility than might be suggested by these recommendations, to take into consideration, for example, the need of a municipality to provide some perhaps very expensive services in a very short period of time and the need to respond needs to be done there.

One final note, and this will be unpleasant, I am sure. It does not say it in here but we have had some discussion in the House of a rather acrimonious nature when a disaster occurs that somebody is attempting to take political advantage by means of responding to a disaster in some area. When the minister responds, I urge him to make as much consideration as he can to totally depoliticizing that process. I think he would find members on all sides very co-operative in this regard if they were simply asked to do that and I urge him when he responds to this report to take that into very serious consideration.

RECORD OF DEBATES

Ms. Fish: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I rise to seek your guidance on a matter that I consider to be extremely serious. I believe you and, I hope, all members of this assembly would agree that it is absolutely essential that our Hansard be accurate, independent and objective in recording the actual debate that occurs in this House. On June 8, 1987, I believe that Hansard may have been tampered with to the extent of substantially altering the record of debate in this assembly, with the result of altering the meaning and intent of the actual words used in exchange.

The printed Hansard of June 8, 1987, under page 1147, quotes the Premier (Mr. Peterson) as follows, "Quebec has always been concerned, being the only island of francophones in North America, about being washed over by a massive movement of immigration into that province."

The Instant Hansard of that same date, and indeed the electronic Hansard clearly showed the Premier saying—Instant Hansard, on page L-1415-1—made reference to, "Quebec has always been concerned, being the only island of francophones in North America, about being washed over by a massive movement of immigration into that country."

I believe that the differences between "country" and "province" are substantial. They are not issues of a grammatical correction. The difference between Instant and electronic Hansard and printed Hansard raise in my mind the very serious question of the independent and accurate reporting by Hansard of debate in this House having been tampered with. I ask you to look into this matter.

Mr. Speaker: The member brings up a point that I certainly will look at and report back on at the appropriate time.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Obviously a corrected mistake.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will certainly take a look at it and report back.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Grossman: My question is to the Premier. In the Meech Lake accord, he signed a document that "guarantees" Quebec will receive, in essence, 25 per cent of the immigration to Canada. He has attempted to resolve some of our concerns here by suggesting that family reunification will not be impeded.

I wonder, just to clarify his position by way of explaining that we should not be concerned, if he could tell us, for example, if a 30-year-old or 35-year-old landed immigrant wished to bring, say, his 55-year-old parents to Canada, whether they would be allowed in under the family reunification program that he so often speaks of.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not sure of the particular facts of the situation the member is talking about, but in my understanding, if it qualified under the family reunification program, and I do not know if the member's particular example would or not, then it very clearly would not be affected by it.

1400

Mr. Grossman: The point I wish to make is that family reunification will be greatly impacted, and stopped in some cases, by the Meech Lake accord, as we read the guarantee. That is because if a 35-year-old landed immigrant wished to sponsor his 55-year-old parents, that family reunification is not exempted from the accord. It does not qualify under the family reunification program. If he wished to sponsor his 17-year-old sister or 24-year-old brother and wife, they would not be exempted from the impact of Meech Lake by the family reunification program.

Therefore, my question to the Premier is this: given the fact that family reunification is not exempted from the Meech Lake accord, would he explain once again how a guarantee of 25 per cent of the immigration coming to Canada will not stop family reunification in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It may be complicated for the honourable member opposite. I am not sure it is that complicated at all. Family reunification, under the existing rules, is not

affected. It only applies to independent immigrants, which, as I understand it, happens to pertain to only about 25 per cent of the immigrants who come to this country. I could be wrong on that figure, but I think it is in that range. Family reunification is not subject to these targets and will carry on in the future as it did in the past. Anyone who is eligible under the current rules will be eligible with no changes on that, under any potential changes that may come about contractually under the Constitution.

Mr. Grossman: That is precisely the case, because only those qualifying under the current family reunification program are protected against the accord which the Premier signed. But if, for example, a family wishes to reunite, a 35-year-old landed immigrant with his or her 55-year-old parents from, say, Portugal or Hong Kong, that reunification could well be stopped by the reality that the Premier has guaranteed—the Premier can shake his head as much as he wants, but until he has the knowledge to stand up in this House and say categorically that Meech Lake does not guarantee Quebec 25 per cent of the population and that will not divert some immigration which otherwise might have come from non-French-speaking countries, then the fact is that family reunification will be stopped.

Therefore, is it the Premier's position that the Meech Lake accord guarantee will have no impact whatsoever on current immigration flows and family reunification for a 35-year-old landed immigrant and his 55-year-old parents?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend is trying to beat this subject to death. I think he would want to have some serious discussions with people who are knowledgeable on this matter. I can easily arrange for a briefing for him, from federal immigration officials or from constitutional experts, if he has a particular problem, but I say to my friend opposite that it is not going to affect family reunification as it exists under the present situation. It only applies to independent immigrants.

I know the member would not want to leave the impression that any increase in Quebec's target is going to come at the expense of any other part of the country, because that is not the case. Look at the federal targets over the next five years and the member will see they are dramatically increasing. As I said, it only applies to independent immigrants.

I know my honourable friend may have some problem understanding it personally or he may have some information he is trying to put out that is not accurate. I think in the interest of fairness to

his Prime Minister, whom the member praised so fulsomely in Ottawa last week for his great courage in getting everybody to the bargaining table and making a deal at Meech Lake, the member would want to check his facts before he accidentally propounds some theory that is not correct.

Mr. Grossman: He is Ontario's Premier and he has stopped family reunification in Ontario and he will not answer the question.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Grossman: My second question is to the Premier as well. By this point we read that the Premier has met with Robert White of the Canadian Auto Workers. He has had much to say about the auto pact. He has discussed our auto situation, no doubt, and he has had many studies done by and with his Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

I wonder if the Premier could confirm how much excess auto capacity North America is likely to have by 1990.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: There are a number of studies there and a number of analysts looking at the situation. The estimates vary about the capacity situation. It obviously depends on the market and depends very much on federal policy with respect to imports in this country. He has to look at the total picture in that regard. He is aware that General Motors has announced it is closing down 11 factories in the United States. It has not done that in Canada. As a matter of fact, they have made the largest single private sector investment this country has ever seen in Oshawa, which I think is an affirmation of their faith in our competitiveness here in Ontario.

That being said, we are watching closely the automotive situation in the long term, trying very hard to protect the auto pact from the free trade discussions. I know my honourable friend will do that and assist us in that regard. We have also put forward, as a joint government, labour and industry position—both the assemblers and the auto parts industry—a view to the federal government and we are hoping his colleague, Mr. Côté, will take the case of the automotive industry and strongly represent that in cabinet to make sure that we have a fair and balanced automotive policy with respect to the Pacific Rim in particular.

Mr. Grossman: Let us get rid of all the red herrings. First, as the Premier should know, Canada is producing half a million cars over the auto pact guarantees. It is not related to the

question. The auto pact provision has nothing to do with the question I asked.

Second, to clarify the degree of the surplus—which he does not seem to know at this stage, having been at all these meetings—taking out all the federal import policies and presuming there are no imports at all into Canada, which of course is not the case, taking all of that out, the reality is almost everyone concludes that by 1990 North America will have a capacity to produce 22 million automobiles for a market total of 18 million cars maximum. That is without any imports coming into the country. That amounts to about 10 excess auto plants, in addition to the 11 that have been closed.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Grossman: What steps are the Premier, his minister and this government taking to make sure that those 10 auto plants are not closed in Ontario?

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The members are cheering as if they want some auto plants to close here. It is a remarkable response.

Mr. Grossman: Don't be so juvenile. Come on.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Then what was the applause for?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me say to my honourable friend opposite, look at what is happening. I am aware of a variety of different estimates on this subject. He used one set of numbers, others use other sets of numbers, but the interesting situation for Canada at present is the following: our unit cost of production today in Ontario is—

Mr. Rowe: It has nothing to do with it.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Of course it has everything to do with it. It is substantially below that of the United States. We have an excellent competitive position going into the 1990s and the years beyond. It is something we are fighting to protect. He is absolutely right when he points out that we are enjoying a surplus in terms of auto trade at the moment with the United States. But it is fair to note at the same time that over the life of the auto pact it has netted out roughly equal. Some years we are ahead, some years we are behind. At the moment, we are in a good position.

I point to the specific evidence in front of the member. Look at what is happening in the industry. Our relative competitive position is in pretty good shape and there is more activity planned in terms of investment in Ontario. We

are delighted to see that, but that shows why we have to keep our competitive position vis-à-vis the United States and have policies that protect our workers vis-à-vis other countries.

1410

Mr. Grossman: I want to agree with the Premier that our competitive position is very strong and of course that competitive position was built up over many years—in fact, some would say 42 years—of excellent administration which allowed that industry to be so competitive.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Was your question, “Do you agree?”

Mr. Grossman: No. I do agree, but that is not the question.

It is simply not good enough for the Premier to be saying, “Things are very nice now and we are very competitive;” and as his minister always says, “Gee, look at all the cars that are being produced and sold this year.” That is the very complacency which will result in our auto industry and our very economy turning down dramatically two years from today when 10 plants in North America, regardless of import policy and regardless of the auto pact, are going to have to be shut down. Those are not my analyses; they are the analyses of his own ministry and all industry experts.

My simple question is this. What specific steps is the Premier taking, other than patting himself on the back, to ensure that none of those 10 plants that are going to have to be closed in North America is closed in Ontario? Tell us specifically what he is going to do.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: How can I, in all humility, take credit for the fine state of the automotive industry in this province when my friend has already done so? If my friend would like credit for building this fine, stable industry then he obviously has to take the responsibility for any problems it has at the same time as well.

I say to my honourable friend that the relationships among this government, the industry and the union, I think, are superb. We are working together on the long-term competitive aspects of the industry. We are representing together, with united voice, a strong voice to the federal government. If my honourable friend wants to be constructive, he could even put his name on the bottom of the letter as we send it to the Prime Minister and M. Côté to make sure that we have the strongest representations possible in Ottawa.

I know with how much credibility the member is viewed by his confrères in Ottawa. Who knows, it may even help.

VISITORS

Mr. Martel: I might indicate that in the west gallery is a group of survivors whose husbands are victims of cancer in the work place and in the gold mines of northern Ontario. I want to introduce them to this Legislature.

Mr. Pope: I already did it.

Mr. Martel: They were not in here when you did it, though. You should have waited for them to come.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Martel: I have a question of the Minister of Labour regarding the Industrial Disease Standards Panel submission to the Workers' Compensation Board on lung cancer. The matter has been studied, restudied and restudied. I do not know how many studies have been done. The criteria presented to the Workers' Compensation Board are so strict and so unacceptable as to virtually eliminate most of the men who died from exposure to something in the work place.

The criteria established by the Workers' Compensation Board with respect to the Elliot Lake miners have been changed five times since their introduction, and for the sintering plant workers at least five times since they gained benefits. Will the minister now assure this House that a level that takes into consideration the suffering, takes into consideration realism, takes into consideration the fact that this committee could not decide on what the cause of cancer was except that it was dusty, and make sure that the criteria established will be sensible, as has not been the case in Elliot Lake or the sintering plant at the beginning?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am not certain what my friend is asking me to do. I would share with my colleague the member for Sudbury East and with the House the process, as I understand it, that has gone on. My friend refers to studies that have gone on for a very long time, and I agree with him, but my view is that we are at the point of decision.

There has been advice given to the Workers' Compensation Board by the Industrial Disease Standards Panel, which recommends criteria which would lead to some of these cases, not all, but some of these cases, if accepted in total, being compensable. That was a majority decision of the Industrial Disease Standards Panel. There

was a dissenting opinion offered by, I believe, three members of the panel.

The board, working with the majority report, the dissenting report and the further recommendations of Dr. Muller, has now published these findings and invited comment. That comment period will close in early July and then, at the earliest possible time, the board will reach a decision.

The point of all this is that this Legislature, in 1984—I remind my friend, who was a member at the time—voted, as part of Bill 101, to establish this panel and to establish this new scientific process. That is what it has done, and it seems to me that is the appropriate way to go forward.

Mr. Martel: Under the new system the ministry has the burden of proof continues to rest on the victims. This was made clear in the dissenting report. Work environment and medical records are often totally inadequate. The minister knows that, and I know that.

Dr. Muller states in his report that these workers were exposed to a cocktail of toxic substances. That was not considered. The healthy worker effect was not considered by the panel. Three major items were not considered. The panel did not and was not able to define the causative agent of the lung cancer, which was the requirement under the legislation and regulations. They could not come up with one. The minister should not tell me about the process. It does not work in this case.

Will the minister assure these widows who are with us today, the survivors and victims who have waited long enough, that their claims will be dealt with quickly and that every assistance should be provided to them to lift the burden of proof from their shoulders? This carnage has gone on long enough.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: My friend has a particular point of view on this matter and he brings great knowledge to this debate; he is quite knowledgeable, but I think he would agree with me that neither of us has the scientific expertise that the members of the panel have. They have offered those views.

The comments my friend has made are all contained in the dissenting opinion. Parties to this matter, those who are interested in this matter, are being asked to comment both on the majority report and on the dissenting opinion. I am sure—it almost goes without saying—that comments such as my friend is offering in the House will be made.

I can only suggest to my friend that I know the board of directors of the WCB will give very

serious consideration, and hopefully will reach a conclusion which will bring this matter forward and compensate as many people as possible. I agree these individuals in the gallery today have waited a very long time to have these matters dealt with. We are at that point, and I hope they will be dealt with expeditiously and sympathetically, but I think they ought to be dealt with on proper scientific criteria.

Mr. Martel: The minister knows the workers were exposed to aluminum prophylaxis—I am going to send copies to all members so they will know what it is—radon daughters, arsenic, diesel fumes, silica dust, dust; this cocktail effect was there.

We also know that in this present study, stomach cancer has not even been dealt with yet to determine why there is a greater number of workers dying from cancer of the stomach than is normal in the general public, by an excessive amount.

When the minister talks about scientific studies, we know in this case it is nonsense; they cannot come to a conclusion. He knows it, I know it and they know it. That is why they could not get a conclusion.

Will the minister at least consider one of the recommendations and make sure the disease panel's suggestion, that the Muller study should be updated with respect to stomach cancer, is put under way immediately to try to determine what is the cause of stomach cancer among these miners?

1420

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am not sure whether Dr. Muller's further study will include that. I will check and see. It seems to me to be a reasonable suggestion.

I say to the honourable member, and indeed to those in the gallery who are interested and to all honourable members in the House who are interested, that this mortality study was up until 1977. Even as the WCB matter is going forward, Dr. Muller is now undertaking a further updating of the study to 1985. It will not take a long time. It is just a further mortality study, and I think it will be ready this fall. That may lead the Industrial Disease Standards Panel to further reconsider its findings.

There is no doubt, as the honourable member says, that a number of these matters have changed over the years—the criteria given—and it may well be that the criteria in this case will change as the further studies go forward, but the decision has been made on the basis of what the

studies have shown and we are trying to update that now.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville).

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) allow the member for Riverdale to ask his question.

CONVERSION OF RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Reville: My question, in the absence of the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling), is to the Premier. I am hopeful that today the Premier may be able to shed some light on why his government seems so confused about the difference between a condominium and a rental unit.

In Thunder Bay, there is a 54-unit project being built with the assistance of Renterprise funding. It is being developed by 444348 Ontario Ltd. in two phases of 27 units each. The first phase is up and occupied and the developer will receive \$360,000 in interest-free loans from the government. This developer has preregistered his project as a condominium.

I want to ask the Premier why he thinks it is good public policy to give \$14,000 in one year to a developer who is building condominiums.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not familiar with the particular case in Thunder Bay that the honourable member raises, but that is not my understanding of how it works. Sometimes these buildings are registered as condominiums but not employed as condominiums. The policy is to create units for rental, not for condominium or ownership purposes. As I understand it, that is what is happening. I also understand that if there are any abuses of that, the money is immediately repayable.

Mr. Reville: We may be getting somewhere. If the Premier is insisting that this program is intended to produce rental units, will he request his Minister of Housing to amend the program so that a developer receiving funds under this program cannot convert them to condominiums?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As I said, the intention is not to create that type of housing; it is to create leased housing and rental housing, and that is indeed what we understand is happening. If the member knows of a particular case of abuse, he can clearly point that out to my attention and I will follow it down. I gather the ones he has raised have been tracked down and it has been found they are not worth getting exercised about because that is not what is happening.

Mr. Reville: I know the Premier is not familiar with the details of this case, but I have given him the details as they exist on the ground in Thunder Bay. Let me say again that the project is registered as a condominium. There are 54 units therein; half of them are constructed and occupied. The social goal of the program is being met theoretically by seven units being offered to rent-geared-to-income people. Those seven units will disappear when the project is converted to condo.

In an environment where there are 693 families on a waiting list for affordable housing, why would the government spend even one cent on creating 57 condominium units?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I will look into the particular case my honourable friend raises. If there is any merit to it, then I will share that with him and we will rectify any abuses.

Mr. McClellan: You are subsidizing condominium construction.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is not right at all. Just because they are registered as a condominium does not mean they are being employed as a condominium. The object is to create rental housing fast, and the minister has undertaken a very ambitious program to do that. There is a variety of different ways of doing it, but I think when the member looks at the broad mix of the programs, he will see a very sincere and active commitment on the question of a shortage of affordable housing.

I do not think my honourable friend necessarily can draw the conclusion that because it is registered as a condominium it is being treated and is being operated as a condominium. Frequently, it is done for tax reasons and other reasons, as my honourable friend knows.

Mr. Pope: The fact is the Premier has let housing policy get totally out of control in the province.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Pope: My question is to the Minister of Labour on behalf of my constituents, those whom I have represented in appeal hearings in front of the Workers' Compensation Board and those whom others have represented. We have seen the studies; we have seen the reports. I hope all that is now behind us and it is time to adapt standards and give these Victims of Mining Environment the compensation that is due to them.

We know that both the Muller study and the recommendations of the Industrial Disease Standards Panel indicate a flawed rationale, a flawed

process and, I believe, flawed findings. Will the Minister of Labour now intervene or have his occupational health and safety branch intervene and make its own report or reply to the findings of the Industrial Disease Standards Panel and recommend to that panel and to the Workers' Compensation Board new standards that are more consistent with standards for lung cancer victims in other areas of industrial endeavour in this province and help out these people?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That is not our intention. As I said before, we have established a panel with eminent scientific individuals and people from business and labour, and it has reached conclusions. It is perhaps useful that, because some members of the panel were concerned, there has been a dissenting opinion. There remains ample opportunity for those who do not agree with the majority conclusions to make their case before the Workers' Compensation Board. They will do so and the board will give consideration to it.

I share the hope of the honourable member that we will be able to get on with the matter in an expeditious manner and that indeed further studies—and there will be further studies—if appropriate, will continue to loosen the criteria that have now been established.

Mr. Pope: I cannot accept that answer. I think the minister and his officials have an obligation to intervene and recommend more acceptable standards to help these people who have waited for so long to get the compensation due to them.

I ask the minister to give his assurance this afternoon to the people in the gallery and the rest of the province that he will instruct the board that it must make its decision on the standards to be given for these claimants in its August meeting and that the appeal tribunal must hear these appeals in the month of August in Timmins so that all who are involved can get an expeditious resolution of these claims.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: There are a number of matters before the board of directors of the WCB. This is one of them and it is a very important one. I cannot give the honourable member or his constituents that assurance. However, I can tell the honourable member, who has privately raised a number of issues with me on this, that we are moving as expeditiously as possible to set up the office of the worker adviser in Timmins. I am now advised that we may be able to get that office set up well before the September time that had been indicated earlier. My colleague the acting Minister of Government Services (Mr. Conway) is working on that issue.

I am also assured by the WCB that once the period under the notice ends on July 6 or 8, the board will get on with making its decision as quickly as possible. Whether that will be in the August meeting, I cannot give the honourable member a firm assurance. I would not want to give that assurance now and have to take it back later. The board has a number of important matters on its plate. I am hoping that this can be done as early as possible, and hopefully in the August meeting, but I cannot give the member that firm assurance.

1430

ORDER-IN-COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the Premier. Two days ago, in response to my leader's question on Liberal policy on affirmative action and the public sector, the Premier suggested that we were merely attempting to ask questions two days ahead of Liberal announcements. Today, two days later, we still have no announcement, not even the much-delayed release of the "I count" survey of employment in the public service.

While we wait, I wonder if the Premier can reveal to us how and when he plans to fulfil his promise in the Ontario policy on race relations statement that he made to this House on May 28, 1986, to make appointments to agencies, boards and commissions that ensure that these bodies fully reflect the racial diversity of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That was fulfilled a couple of years ago. We have been doing it consistently.

Ms. Gigantes: That is a most strange response. Two days ago, the Premier invited us as opposition members to do our own detailed analysis of appointments to agencies, boards and commissions. His reluctance to provide a public record of Liberal appointments confirms what his own office has told us, namely, that the Office of the Premier and Cabinet Office do not keep statistics on the racial or ethnic representivity of such appointments and that they have no plans to keep statistics.

How can he keep his pledge or indeed say that his pledge has been carried out, that appointments would fully reflect the racial diversity of Ontario, if he does not count, if he is not monitoring his own appointment system?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member implies there is something secret about it, but these are orders in council. They are published weekly in the Ontario Gazette. I invite my honourable friend just to look at it.

ACCORD CONSTITUTIONNEL

M. Guindon: J'ai une question pour le premier ministre. Pourriez-vous nous expliquer, expliquer à cette chambre, l'accord constitutionnel de 1987, que la province de Québec doit protéger et promouvoir le caractère distinct des gens d'expression française et d'expression anglaise, tandis que le reste du Canada n'a seulement qu'à protéger son caractère d'expression française ou d'expression anglaise minoritaire?

L'hon. M. Peterson: Dans l'accord on a signé une clause qui dit que le Québec est une société distincte comme mon ami a dit. Mais, la subsection (a) fait aussi mention que la majorité des francophones qui sont des canadiens français, habitent le Québec et il y a une minorité là aussi, une minorité d'anglophone.

Il y a aussi une autre région du Canada, une majorité anglophone mais minorité francophone. C'est comme dit mon ami, c'est la situation ici au Canada maintenant. Mais il y a deux choses qui sont très importantes: d'abord, la question qu'il y a reconnaissance explicite de la minorité, pas seulement au Québec mais les autres régions du Canada comme l'Ontario, par exemple, les francophones ici. Et c'est important car il y a seulement un pays, c'est le Canada, il y a les canadiens qui parlent français, il y a les canadiens qui parlent anglais, mais il y a seulement un Canada. Pas deux Canada, un Canada. Et c'est pour la première fois une définition du vrai Canada d'aujourd'hui.

M. Guindon: Je ne suis pas tout à fait satisfait de la réponse du premier ministre, parce que je trouve que les mots ne sont pas pareilles dans la constitution. La protection que la minorité d'expression anglaise au Québec a à comparer à celle de la minorité d'expression française en Ontario est différente.

Je voudrais demander au premier ministre pour assurer que les citoyens d'expression française minoritaire hors-Québec ne soient pas des gens de deuxième classe, est-ce que vous seriez prêt à amender l'accord constitutionnel pour inclure la promotion des droits de la minorité des gens d'expression française hors-Québec ainsi que leurs protection.

L'hon. M. Peterson: J'espère que mon ami va lire l'accord que nous avons signé parce que je pense qu'il ne le comprend pas. L'accord dit qu'il y a une minorité là et une minorité ici. Il y a reconnaissance des droits là et ici. Il y a aussi d'autres sections de la constitution—par exemple, 133—qui parle du bilinguisme et les autres droits

des minorités. Il y a aussi les droits des communautés ethnoculturelles partout au Canada.

Je crois que si mon ami étudie l'accord, il n'aura aucun problème.

NUCLEAR ARMS FREE ZONE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is also for the Premier. On November 13 this House overwhelmingly passed a resolution to make Ontario a nuclear weapons free zone. Since that time I have seen little action from the government. All we have seen are some changes in the province, such as General Motors undertaking a contract to build the chassis for the Midgetman missile in the Premier's own home community.

What action has the Premier decided to take to at least move us towards concretizing the goals of that resolution?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: In response to my honourable friend's question—he has put forward two bills, I believe, in this House, and I know how he feels about this issue—I can tell the honourable member that we have analysed those in some detail and frankly have come, unfortunately, to the conclusion that they are unworkable from any sort of meaningful legal point of view. As statutes they would create enormous legal problems; probably they would be unenforceable and would not address the problem my honourable friend would like to address.

As I said to my honourable friend, I agree very strongly with the intention implicit therein, but it is another question to bring those into legal forms; and I say to him, regretfully, we do not believe it is possible to do, on legal advice.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I presume, therefore, that means the Premier does not intend to accept my Bill 14 as an amendment to the Bill 13 amendments to the Planning Act moved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître), ironically on the same day, and that he does not think it is possible for us to amend that act to deem every official plan in Ontario to prohibit the manufacture of nuclear weapons parts in this province.

If that is the case, does that mean the Premier will be instructing his caucus to vote against that when I move those amendments this fall?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As much as all of us admire the honourable member's intentions in this regard, we do not, frankly, think it is a practical solution.

PARAMEDICS

Mr. Gordon: I have a question for the Minister of Health. A recent report done by two

doctors in Sudbury—Dr. Boda, who is an emergency specialist of whom I am sure the minister is aware, and Dr. Cox—shows that many people are accident victims in the Sudbury region. As a matter of fact, as high as 20 per cent of those victims could have been saved if more aggressive techniques and measures had been taken by ambulance attendants; but ambulance attendants, in northern Ontario in particular, do not have paramedic training and, as a result, are not able to save these victims from death.

Could the minister tell us when he is going to fund an advanced trauma life-saving unit within the Sudbury region?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is no announcement of funding for such a program at this time. I know the honourable gentleman would like to acknowledge that there are ongoing discussions between the emergency health services of my ministry and the people in Sudbury. Actually, the question that is being debated at this point is the level of training for paramedics who might be introduced into the Sudbury region. I know of, but have not analysed personally, the reports by the two physicians that the honourable member has outlined. However, I do know there is an ongoing discussion about the level of training required for the paramedics to be of maximum usefulness in the field in the Sudbury region.

This is a matter which I am, quite frankly, leaving for resolution between the local people in Sudbury and the EHS professionals, the experts in this area. When there are suggestions brought to my attention, then I can make some final decision; but at this point nothing is final.

Mr. Gordon: I thank the minister for that answer, but I must point out that, while there are discussions going on about defibrillation of accident victims, if he were to talk to Dr. Boda, an emergency specialist, and the people at the Sudbury General Hospital, they would tell him of the study they did. It was a 10-year study in the Sudbury district. There were 279 victims, with 119 of those having the potential to live, and 52 with injuries that, had they been treated before they got to the hospital, could have lived.

1440

I am sure the minister will agree that not only does he want to see those kinds of paramedic services provided for the Sudbury region but he would also like to see that extended throughout northern Ontario.

I want to ask the minister: is he prepared to fund in the Sudbury region, in the north, the kind of paramedic services they have had for 15 years

in the United States, so that instead of 52 people being victims they would be alive today?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The question of the appropriate nature of paramedic training cannot necessarily be compared to that of the United States. They have a number of interesting options that are provided there. What we have found in terms of our emergency health services is that in fact a quick response is the most effective, or at least the best response is if the people who are trained, as the member has said, can get to the patient very quickly.

The appropriate level of training that is required is an ongoing assessment which is being undertaken by the EHS branch of the ministry. We look at the appropriate level and we look at the mix of possible responses that we may have to make through our ambulance services, and then we come up with some recommendations and suggestions.

For instance, when we introduced the paramedic program to the Niagara region, it was noted that the best response was to provide training in defibrillation; in that area, of course it is very busy and active area, the whole area plan was on the basis that the defibrillation would be the most appropriate level of training.

We have to go through very detailed discussions with each of the areas, because we have found there are different needs in each part of the province. I am unwilling to cut short those detailed discussions and the analysis by the experts. I want them to have the fullest possible discussion and then decisions can be made. I am not in a position to make a decision at this point.

EXPERIENCE '87

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Citizenship and Culture about another sleazy practice that is being pursued by this government.

I have just given the minister a copy of the results of applications to her Experience '87 program. The top two are applications that have been accepted by her ministry. They are signed by the minister and blind copies are sent to the opposition member in that riding. The following two, under the same program, are applications that were rejected by the minister's department. They are signed by an Experience co-ordinator in the region concerned and not a blind copy but a "cc" is put on it to the local member.

I would like to know if the minister finds it appropriate that her name is on accepted program grants and she is putting opposition names on grants that are being rejected by her ministry?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I think the honourable member does not understand the role of the regional officers. In the case of an application being turned down, we think it is better to get the information to the member involved quickly from the regional offices. If it is to be approved, they forward the information to us and I sign it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Munro: If it will be helpful for the member for me to also sign rejection letters, I will do that; no problem.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Any further response? No?

Mr. Morin-Strom: I find it incredible that the minister would defend this policy rather than apologize for it. I think the minister had better go back and look at what is appropriate practice in terms of treatment of the members of this House and see that there is equitable treatment and that her name goes on rejections as well as acceptances, if that is what the policy is going to be. If they are going to put opposition members' names on them, she should be consistent in that policy as well.

Will the minister tell us if this policy is her policy alone or is this the policy of the whole Liberal administration over there?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I think in the member's desire to perpetuate the term "sleaze," he forgets how to listen. If he had listened, I would have told him that we will take a look at his suggestion and if he feels, as he does, that a minister should also send out rejection letters, I would be please to do it. But the member did not listen to that, did he?

Secondly, I believe that every minister in this government responds to the needs of opposition members. I have told many members in this House that I respect the Legislature. If they have any suggestions at all on how information can better get to them, fine, but the member should watch how he uses the term "sleaze."

WATER QUALITY

Mr. Pierce: My question is to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Premier. I am sure the minister is aware of the extremely low water levels in northern Ontario. Lake of the Woods is down six feet, Rainy Lake is down five feet and Wabigoon Lake is down five feet.

Considering the extremely low water levels in northern Ontario, I would like to know what steps the minister has taken to reduce the amount

of pollutants that are allowed to flow from the paper mills in northwestern Ontario into the downstream structure of these lakes.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not aware of anything, to answer the member's question directly, but if he has any ideas, I will discuss them with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley).

Mr. Davis: Does the Premier not have any ideas? None at all?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Not too many.

Mr. Speaker: Did the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis) want to ask a supplementary? No?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt).

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: I can't help that. Just control yourself.

Mr. Pierce: I am more than a little disappointed that the Minister of Northern Development and Mines is not aware of the conditions that exist in the upper lakes systems that are above three of the major pulp-and-paper-producing companies.

I would ask the minister at least to look into what is happening in northern Ontario, being that he is the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, get up to date on what is happening and provide us with some answers about the level of pollutants that the paper companies are allowed to put into the downstream rivers beyond these lakes. That is my question to the minister. Let us get up to speed here.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Was that the member's question? I appreciate his question. It is very interesting that last year this government was being criticized and blamed because the water levels were too high. This year we are being blamed because they are too low. You cannot win. You just cannot win on this side of the House.

Mr. Andrewes: That has nothing to do with it. Don't be so sleazy. Give a reasonable answer.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friends opposite are exhibiting a degree of nervousness which does not become them. It really does not.

Let me say to my honourable friend that the Minister of the Environment is monitoring these things, as the honourable member will be aware. I am sure my honourable friend will sleep well tonight in the confidence that we have the most

competent Minister of the Environment this country has ever seen. He takes these matters very seriously, and I know he is on top of this situation. I will tell him of the member's concerns, but I am sure the member can tell people there that it is in very competent hands.

ONTARIO HYDRO PLANNING

Mr. Charlton: I have a question for the Premier, but he is not paying very much attention.

The Premier is no doubt aware from the press reports and from his staff that Sam Horton, who is the chairman of the Canadian Nuclear Association and one of the vice-presidents of Ontario Hydro, said the other day at the association's annual conference in Saint John, New Brunswick, that Ontario Hydro will need more nuclear plants in order to meet needs by the middle 1990s, the same trial balloon which Tom Campbell, the chairman of Hydro, floated last fall.

The Premier's response last fall was very quick when he said there was no pending electrical energy crisis in this province and there would be no more nuclear plants. Will the Premier make it absolutely clear to Ontario Hydro that it is not the policy of this government to consider the construction of further nuclear plants in Ontario after Darlington?

1450

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I apologize for the lack of attention. My honourable colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has just brought in his hourly load of chocolate bars and I was looking at his loot.

I am aware of Mr. Horton's remarks and a variety of other people's remarks on these questions. Those do not represent government policy. This government determines its own policy. As the member knows, over the next period of time—and there is no crisis, as I said before; I stand by my answer of whenever it was that the member quoted—we will be assessing the demand options and the supply options in the future. We will share that information with the member publicly, as we may have to proceed on in the future, but I can tell him there are no plans to do that at the moment.

Mr. Charlton: I have the minutes of a meeting in April of the economic development committee of the Canadian Nuclear Association, where the CNA announced that it intended to proceed with a five-year program to promote with the public new confidence in the use of nuclear power generation in Canada and that it

intended to spend \$4 million a year for each of those five years to promote this new public confidence in nuclear power. It is stated in these minutes that the bulk of that funding will come from Ontario Hydro and from Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. If it is not presently government policy to proceed with further nuclear developments in Ontario, will the Premier assure this House that Hydro will be instructed not to spend the funds of the Ontario public to promote something that is not government policy?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I was aware the member had a copy of those secret minutes and I am glad he shared them with me, because if he had not, I would have shared them with him, I say to my honourable friend. The minister has already addressed this issue, and he has told Ontario Hydro it will not be involved in any advocacy positions.

ACCORD CONSTITUTIONNEL

M. Guindon: Je voudrais poser la question au premier ministre encore une fois. Je n'ai pas trouvé sa réponse; je crois qu'il n'a pas répondu du tout à la deuxième question. Je voudrais lui demander est-ce qu'il est prêt à faire des changements à l'accord pour inscrire les mots promotion ainsi que protection pour protéger les minorités de langue française hors-Québec?

L'hon. M. Peterson: Je vais dire à mon ami qu'on va discuter de l'accord pas seulement ici, mais avec tous les membre de l'Ontario. Je ne sais pas exactement quand, peut-être cette automne.

Si mon ami a des idées pour changer l'accord de constitution, il faut discuter ces idées avec moi. Il y a d'autres personnes avec des idées et je crois qu'on pourrait avoir une discussion pour discuter des idées de mon ami et on pourra en discuter à ce moment.

M. Guindon: C'est surtout aussi pour lui mentionner que l'ACFO ainsi que les franco-manitobain et les acadiens ne se sentent certainement pas sécure avec la situation de cette manière.

Je voudrais lui demander encore, est-il prêt à faire des changements ou proposer des changements à l'accord constitutionnel?

L'hon. M. Peterson: Comme mon ami le sait, on va en discuter dans les autres provinces, le Manitoba, le Québec et les autres. Si il y a des changements qui vient des autres provinces ou ici, on pourra en discuter avec les autres premiers ministres, les autres législatures, je ne sais pas mais je suis prêt à discuter d'autres idées.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and refers to the practices of the commercial cemeteries in this province, which I raised in a statement here yesterday in the House. I am sure he will recall that Inspector Tom Turner did a report for his ministry that the minister admitted in committee made "serious allegations concerning the business practices, and more specifically the sales techniques, used by certain named firms." The minister stated to me in that committee last December that his ministry was addressing this "in an ongoing manner" and that he would "be responding to that situation." I wonder whether the minister will tell the House today what he has done and what he has found.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I thank the member for the question. He will know that we have been looking at this for some time and that it is not a simple problem nor does it have a simple solution, but I can assure him that within a very short period of time, I will be introducing legislation to address the problem.

Mr. Swart: I am sure the minister is aware that the crux of this whole problem is that the commercial cemeteries, and to a lesser extent the corporate funeral chains, are moving in to take over the whole bereavement sector. As the minister has already said, he has been assessing this for some period of time. I wonder whether the minister realizes the crucial situation that exists, that these cemeteries are now moving on the takeovers in a much more rapid manner. I wonder whether the minister can give this House some commitment that he will bring in that legislation before the end of this session. I do not mean the recess; I mean the end of this session.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I do not know exactly when the end of this session is going to be, but I have every intention of bringing that legislation forward.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Pope: In the absence of the Premier, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. It relates to one of his earlier comments. I refer him to page 1104 of Hansard, June 4, 1987, if he would like to read it. This is about the auto industry of our province. He said, "We are also working closely with labour and the federal government to make sure certain things are put into practice that will enable us not to have that overcapacity." Can the minister be specific?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I believe the member asked a similar question about one week ago. At that time, I mentioned there were three things we were working on and I think these have been repeated by the Premier. One of them was to resume the monitoring and control of vehicle imports coming into Canada.

The other thing we were working on with the federal government was to obtain a commitment from foreign producers establishing in Canada to meet the production and value-added safeguards of the auto pact.

The third thing I mentioned to the member was a commitment from government, industry and labour to improve the technological capability and efficiency of Canada's auto industry so it can continue to compete with the rest of the world.

I believe that was the answer I gave to that similar question.

Mr. Pope: None of that in any way is related to the minister's statement that he was going to put into practice certain things that will enable him not to have that overcapacity. None of those things in any way deals with the overcapacity. Maybe I will be more specific because, unless we are in estimates, this minister seems to have trouble with providing specific answers.

Has the minister been informed as to how many layoffs there are going to be in the automotive assembly and manufacturing industry in this year because of the overcapacity and because of pressure from the Americans because of the trade imbalance in automotive production and manufacturing?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: This member can be a very mean one when he wants to be. Some of the comments he makes are quite—he is a real mean one, but I will try to answer the question he puts.

We have also mentioned in questions that have been asked over the last couple of weeks on this same subject that we have been continually meeting with people from labour; we have been meeting with people from the car industry; we have been meeting with many people concerning what the member calls overcapacity.

He asked me what I think the situation will be this year. As has been mentioned by the Premier and by others, we have new plants coming in. We have new auto parts plants. We have new jobs being created as they have never been created in the province before, and the member does not seem to understand that.

PETITION

TRANSIT SERVICES

Ms. Caplan: Earlier today I introduced Councillor Jim McGuffin, chairman of the transportation committee and representative of ward 11 in North York, and Councillor Paul Sutherland, chairman of the development and economic growth committee and representative of ward 14 in North York.

Today, on their behalf, I would like to present the following petition addressed to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Sheppard subway line has been designated as the number one transit priority by the regional municipality of Metropolitan Toronto; and

"Whereas the Toronto Transit Commission, through its study series entitled Network 2011, has designated the Sheppard subway line as the number one transit priority; and

"Whereas the council for the corporation of the city of North York, through the transportation committee"—of which Councillor McGuffin is chairman—"and the development and economic growth committee"—of which Councillor Paul Sutherland is chairman—"have deemed the Sheppard subway line as an immediate need; and

"Whereas the province of Ontario has yet to approve funding for this project; and

"Whereas the citizens of Metropolitan Toronto urgently appeal to the province of Ontario to address this issue without delay,

"We, the undersigned, respectfully request that the funding for the Sheppard subway line be approved without further delay. We need it now."

I would like to present on behalf of the city of North York council, petitions totalling 2,000. As well, to date there have been 597 petitions forwarded directly to the Premier's office, as well as 412 calls to his office. Keep tuned. The two councillors who were here today asked if I would table this on their behalf.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Is the petition for the Eglinton subway line in the prescribed order?

Mr. Speaker: We will have to check that out very carefully.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. G. I. Miller from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill Pr63, An Act respecting the Institute of Municipal Assessors of Ontario.

Your committee begs to report the following bills as amended:

Bill Pr9, An Act respecting Hamilton Jewish Communal Projects; Bill Pr57, An Act respecting the city of Toronto; Bill Pr65, An Act respecting the Ontario Institute of the Purchasing Management Association of Canada Inc.

Your committee would recommend that the fees, less the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr9, An Act respecting Hamilton Jewish Communal Projects.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Breaugh from the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to present the following bill without amendment:

Bill 23, An Act to provide for greater Certainty in the Reconciliation of the Personal Interests of Members of the Assembly and the Executive Council with their Duties of Office.

Projet de loi 23, Loi assurant une plus grande certitude quant au rapprochement des intérêts personnels des membres de l'Assemblée et du Conseil des ministres avec les devoirs de leurs fonctions.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the report be received and adopted?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

Mr. Breaugh from the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly presented a report from the committee and moved the adoption of its recommendations.

Mr. Breaugh: This is the report on harassing and abusive telephone calls to the chairman of the standing committee on resources development. It is not a how-to book. It is a recommendation on and a response to an incident that occurred when the chairman of the standing committee received some rather disturbing telephone calls. It is a succinct report, but it does attempt to inform

members as to what they should and might do, should that situation happen to them.

On motion by Mr. Breaugh, the debate was adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Laughren from the standing committee on resources development presented the committee's report and moved the adoption of its recommendations.

Mr. Laughren: I think I should have risen on the previous report.

I will be very brief. This represents the committee's report on the 1985 annual report of the Workers' Compensation Board. The report contains only the recommendations on which there was unanimous agreement by all three parties on the committee. The three parties worked very hard to achieve agreement on the recommendations contained in this report. It does not contain recommendations on which all three parties do not have an agreement. It contains many recommendations, one of which should be of particular interest to members.

I am sorry; there was one dissent on this. I stand corrected. There is a recommendation in which the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) moved that a royal commission be established to investigate the Workers' Compensation Board and the way we deliver compensation in the province, amended by the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) to include that a royal commission would have a look at the entire compensation system, based on the model of New Zealand, which is considered to be in the forefront of progressive compensation on accident insurance in the entire world.

There are other recommendations dealing with claims adjudication, permanent pensions, supplements, doctors, rehabilitation, employer assessments and penalties, occupational disease, psychological disability claims, the board's annual report itself and numerous miscellaneous recommendations.

I commend the report to members and, in particular, would urge them to consider the recommendations of the royal commission to investigate a new kind of compensation system for Ontario.

On motion by Mr. Laughren, the debate was adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr. Runciman from the standing committee on public accounts presented the following report and moved the adoption of its recommendations:

Your committee met on Thursday, June 4, 1987, and adopted a motion requesting the production of the following documents to the committee by June 15, 1987: the Biddell report on IDEA investments; the independent audited statements of IDEA Corp. for the financial year ending March 31, 1986; the report of the audit services branch of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology with respect to the administrative expenditures of the IDEA Corp., commissioned by Mr. Kruger.

The committee further requested that the commissioner of the OPP or his designate present in camera any Ontario Provincial Police draft, interim and/or final reports and/or recommendations with respect to the Wyda matter that have been or are now in the possession of the Ministry of the Solicitor General or the Ministry of the Attorney General.

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and the commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police failed to produce all the respective documents which your committee requested.

Your committee therefore requests that the House authorize the Speaker to issue his warrant, as provided in section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act, requiring the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology to produce the following documents to the clerk of the committee by June 24, 1987, for the use of the committee: the Biddell report on IDEA investments; and the report of the audit services branch of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology with respect to the administrative expenditures of the IDEA Corp., commissioned by Mr. Kruger.

1510

Your committee further requests that the House authorize the Speaker to issue his warrant, as provided in section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act, requiring the commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police to produce the following documents to the clerk of the committee by June 24, 1987, for the use of the committee: any Ontario Provincial Police draft, interim and/or final reports and/or recommendations with respect to the Wyda matter that have been or are now in the possession of the Ministry of the Solicitor General or the Ministry of the Attorney General, such documents to be considered by the committee in camera.

Mr. Runciman: This report deals with the issuance of Speaker's warrants. Much of the information the committee is requesting was requested some months ago. There has been

delay upon delay, and I want to emphasize to the House today that the majority of the committee feels this very important matter should be dealt with expediently. The House is set to adjourn next week, and I would urge the members of the House to deal with the report today so that we can get on with this business at the next meeting of the committee this coming Thursday.

I am obligated under standing order 32 to move adjournment of the debate, but I am reluctant to see that occur, and I urge members to deal with the matter today.

1750

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Runciman has moved the adjournment of the debate. I would inform the members that, according to standing order 120(d), when I call the vote all members will rise at once and remain standing until your heads are counted.

The House divided on Mr. Runciman's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 52; nays 20.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED WOOD ENERGY TECHNICIANS OF ONTARIO ACT

Mr. McGuigan moved first reading of Bill Pr21, An Act respecting the Association of Registered Wood Energy Technicians of Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

IRISH IMMIGRANTS' SESQUICENTENNIAL ACT

Mr. Pollock moved first reading of Bill 88, An Act to proclaim 1995 as the 150th Anniversary of the Arrival of Irish Immigrants in Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Pollock: This bill is straightforward. I will just read the preamble.

"Whereas Irish immigrants were among the earliest settlers in Canada; and

"Whereas, in 1845, Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine in Ireland began settling in Canada in large numbers; and

"Whereas persons of Irish descent have made sufficient contributions to Canada and to the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas it is desirable to recognize their contributions and to mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of these immigrants to Canada;

"Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and the consent of the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

"That the year 1995 is proclaimed to be the Irish Immigrants' Sesquicentennial.

"The act comes into force on the day it receives royal assent and the short title of the act is the Irish Immigrants' Sesquicentennial Act."

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

Monday, June 22, we will deal with second reading and committee of the whole House on Bill 79, Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act, and if completed, Tuesday, June 23, we will commence with committee of the whole House on Bill 170, Pension Benefits Act.

Wednesday, June 24, we will continue with Bill 170, followed by the interim supply motion and legislation from the following list, as time is available:

Committee of the whole House on Bill 23, Members' Conflict of Interest Act; third reading of Bill 34, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; second reading of Bill 85, Employment Standards Amendment Act; second reading of Bill 87, Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act; committee of the whole House and third reading of Bill 188, Retail Business Holidays Amendment Act, known as the Ashe bill.

Thursday, June 25, in the morning, we will have private members' business standing in the names of the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) and the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson).

There may be changes and additions to this order of business following the usual consultations between—that should be "among"—the House leaders.

The House adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

CONTENTS

Thursday, June 18, 1987

Private members' public business

Right to farm , resolution 14, Mr. McNeil, Mr. Hayes, Mr. McGuigan, Mr. McLean, Mr. Swart, Mr. Andrewes, Mr. South, agreed to	1487
Cottage lot development , resolution 19, Mr. Bernier, Mr. Wildman, Mr. Fontaine, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Morin-Strom, agreed to	1495

Members' statements

World Youth Wrestling Championship , Mr. McCague	1506
Speech language pathologists , Mr. Foulds	1506
Pit bull terriers , Mr. McGuigan	1506
Workers' compensation , Mr. Pope	1507
Tenants Hot Line , Mr. Reville	1507
Visitors , Ms. Caplan	1507
Game and Fish Act , Mr. Bernier	1508

Statement by the ministry

Disaster relief , Hon. Mr. Grandmaître	1508
---	------

Responses

Disaster relief , Mr. McCague, Mr. Brandt, Mr. Breaugh	1508
---	------

Oral questions

Constitutional accord , Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1511
Automobile industry , Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1512
Workers' compensation , Mr. Martel, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1513
Conversion of rental accommodation , Mr. Reville, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1515
Workers' compensation , Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1515
Order-in-council appointments , Ms. Gigantes, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1516
Accord constitutionnel , M. Guindon, l'hon. M. Peterson	1517
Nuclear arms free zone , Mr. R. F. Johnston, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1517
Paramedics , Mr. Gordon, Hon. Mr. Elston	1517
Experience '87 , Mr. Morin-Strom, Hon. Ms. Munro	1518
Water quality , Mr. Pierce, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1519
Ontario Hydro planning , Mr. Charlton, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1520
Accord constitutionnel , M. Guindon, l'hon. M. Peterson	1520
Funeral services , Mr. Swart, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1521
Automobile industry , Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1521

Petition

Transit services , Ms. Caplan, tabled	1522
--	------

Reports by committees

Standing committee on regulations and private bills , Mr. G. I. Miller, agreed to	1522
Standing committee on the Legislative Assembly , Mr. Breaugh, agreed to	1522
Standing committee on the Legislative Assembly , Mr. Breaugh, adjourned	1522
Standing committee on resources development , Mr. Laughren, adjourned	1523
Standing committee on public accounts , Mr. Runciman, agreed to	1523

First readings

Association of Registered Wood Energy Technicians of Ontario Act, Bill Pr21, Mr. McGuigan, agreed to	1524
Irish Immigrants' Sesquicentennial Act, Bill 88, Mr. Pollock, agreed to	1524

Other business

Recess	1505
Visitor, Mr. Speaker	1506
Record of debates, Ms. Fish	1510
Visitors, Mr. Martel	1513
Business of the House, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1524
Adjournment	1524

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Caplan, E. (Oriole L)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
Fontaine, R. (Cochrane North L)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)
Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)
Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Minister of Financial Institutions (Wilson Heights L)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)
McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)
Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Hamilton Centre L)
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)
Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines (London Centre L)
Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)
Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)
Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)
Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)
Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
South, L. (Frontenac-Addington L)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)



No. 31

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Third Session, 33rd Parliament
Monday, June 22, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, June 22, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

SOUTH CARLETON HIGH SCHOOL BAND

Mr. Sterling: I am very pleased to inform the Legislature of the excellent accomplishments of the South Carleton High School band in Richmond, Ontario, located in the great riding of Carleton-Grenville.

This band consists of 52 tremendously talented students ranging from grades 9 to 13. Recently, it won the title of Most Outstanding Band in Canada. For the South Carleton senior high school band, it was the crowning of a very successful year.

They went through three different competitions this year. The first one was a regional stage band festival competition of Musicfest Canada. They competed at the very highest level and received the gold medal for their efforts. Next, they competed in the Ottawa Music Festival and again won their category with a mark of 92 per cent.

As a result of this continued success, they were invited to participate in the national finals in the Congress Centre in Ottawa on May 17. The national finals consisted of 8,000 musicians from across Canada, and by day's end the South Carleton band had been awarded the honour of the gold medal and the title of the most outstanding band in all of Canada.

School bands at South Carleton are a well-respected tradition. They have achieved their success under the direction of Dave Yensen, and I add my congratulations to him and his students.

NUCLEAR ARMS FREE ZONE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I wish to rise to condemn this government's outright abdication of the responsibilities of this Legislature in its passage of a resolution to make Ontario nuclear weapons free. Ever since we have done that, this government has either not done anything to promote a nuclear weapons free Ontario or has actively assisted in our increased involvement. We are now, through Ontario Hydro, going to be exporting tritium, known to be used in the

development of nuclear weapons. We are now going to be supporting, without saying anything to the contrary, Varity Corp.'s development of the engines for new missiles that will be launched in the coming years.

We have heard from the Premier (Mr. Peterson) that he thinks my solution of changes to the Planning Act is unworkable according to a legal opinion he has received. Yet we have had not one proposal from him, even though my two bills have been before this House now for several months, not one suggestion about how they could be amended to make them work.

We have the preposterous hypocrisy of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) of the province of Ontario acting as chairman of a panel at the Canadian Conference on Nuclear Weapons and the Law last week, two days before the Premier told me he had legal advice that we could do nothing in Ontario to change the Planning Act. The people of the province have a right to know why this government is moving back from this Legislature's decision to make Ontario nuclear weapons free, and they need to know before we rise from this House.

VILLAGE OF ARKONA

Mr. D. W. Smith: Yesterday, June 21, I was pleased to welcome His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, Lincoln Alexander, to the village of Arkona.

Arkona is a small, thriving community in my riding of Lambton. His Honour began his visit by taking part in the 80th anniversary service of St. Stephen's Anglican Church in the village. Following the service, we went over to mark the official opening of the Arkona Lions nonprofit housing project, the Orchard View apartments.

These apartments were developed under a federal-provincial nonprofit housing program and sponsored by the Arkona Lions Club. This project was really a dream of its chairman, Peter Thuss, as well as the Lions and Lionesses. It started about seven years ago. I have to say they were turned down in March, 1985, but I was very pleased and proud to have the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) approve the project in April, 1986. This project went forward and now

the seniors of Arkona and community have a very excellent place to live for many years to come.

POLIO PLUS PROGRAM

Mr. Barlow: There is a 66-year-old gentleman from the great riding of Cambridge sitting in the gallery this afternoon. He got here by a rather special mode of transportation known as walking. Louis Sponder walked 100 kilometres from Cambridge to Queen's Park in support of Rotary International's Polio Plus program, a campaign in conjunction with the World Health Organization to totally rid the world of polio plus five other childhood diseases.

If the members are not yet impressed with the ambition, initiative and enthusiasm of this senior citizen, they should consider this: after having a bit of a rest here, he is going to walk back to Cambridge, starting today. He was joined on his walk by the member for Essex North (Mr. Hayes) and myself—partway along the route, I might say—along with three students. Two are exchange students from Cambridge, one going out in the next month to Brazil, one to Italy; and also we have a student here from the Philippines who is finishing up her term. These people have joined Mr. Sponder.

I would like all members to recognize Mr. Sponder for the great effort he has put forward for this program.

1340

PENSION BENEFITS

Mr. Morin-Strom: On behalf of workers in my community and across the province, I would like to express serious concerns about Bill 170, the Pension Benefits Amendment Act, which is expected to reach final vote later this week. There has been much debate about the need to protect pension benefits through mandatory indexing, and surely the final amendments will be passed to provide such protection against inflation.

Today I would like to focus on the issue of pension portability. This is the number one concern for up to 4,000 laid-off steelworkers in Sault Ste. Marie. These workers generally have between six and 18 years of service at a company with an excellent pension plan. Many are awaiting guarantees of pension portability before they can consider jobs elsewhere in the province.

Unfortunately, the new Pension Benefits Act is woefully inadequate in this area. Because most of these workers are under age 45, their pensions are not vested. The new two-year vesting requirement covers only pension benefits ac-

quired since January 1, 1987, so a steelworker with 15 years loses a pension benefit worth \$270 per month.

As well, under the current wording, a worker has no guarantee that his new employer will accept pension credits for transfer. The employee may get only a relatively small dollar amount put into a locked-in registered retirement savings plan. I want to appeal to the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Kwinter) and the Liberal government this week to accept the New Democratic Party amendment that would guarantee true pension portability.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

Mr. O'Connor: In March of this year I surveyed over 2,400 employers and injured workers in my Oakville riding, soliciting their views on the Workers' Compensation Board. I would like to share with my colleagues, and in particular the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye), the findings from Oakville.

In surveying the employers, only two per cent replied that they felt the WCB had improved its service, 57 per cent felt it had got worse, 14 per cent said it stayed the same and 27 per cent did not know. When asked if they supported a royal commission with a mandate to create a new and relevant Workers' Compensation Act, 86 per cent of employers were in favour.

With the injured workers' survey, when asked if they felt that their claims had been handled fairly, only nine per cent said yes, 73 per cent said no and 18 per cent could not answer. When asked if they were satisfied with the service provided by the WCB staff, only 18 per cent were satisfied and 64 per cent were unsatisfied. Asked the same question as the employers regarding a royal commission for a new Workers' Compensation Act, 91 per cent of injured workers said yes; not a single one said no, and nine per cent had no response.

The most interesting consensus that emerged from this albeit unscientific study is that 86 per cent of employers and 91 per cent of injured workers support the suggestion of a new Workers' Compensation Act, relevant to the 1980s and beyond. I am sponsoring two forums in my riding on Wednesday, June 24, to address this issue. I anticipate forwarding to the Minister of Labour some very positive and constructive suggestions from my constituents in Oakville as they relate to the Workers' Compensation Board.

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORP.

Mr. Laughren: In view of the fact that the government decided not to call for third reading

of the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, on behalf of the government and the official opposition I would like to invite every other jurisdiction to flood the Ontario market with lottery tickets and eat into the \$500-million profit that now funds a lot of programs much desired by Ontario citizens.

I would also like, on behalf of the government, to invite every entrepreneur from anywhere in the world to come into Ontario, buy Ontario lottery tickets, sell them at whatever price they want and sell them in whatever jurisdiction they want, regardless of the laws of that jurisdiction.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

FEDERAL TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

Hon. Mr. Nixon: My colleagues heard that I was making a statement today and it is a preliminary response to the House on the federal government's white paper on tax reform.

It is a complex document that will require a great deal of thorough analysis by all interested Canadians. At this stage, the overall impact of the white paper proposals on individuals and families cannot be determined because of the uncertainties surrounding the sales tax proposals in a later stage of the program.

It is important to recognize at this time that this is a white paper. There will be a period of consultation during which the federal government will have to consider suggestions for amendment and improvement. It is our understanding that no substantive legislation will be brought down until the late fall.

Mr. Wilson has provided us with an extensive set of proposals covering the three major federal revenue sources, with implications for individual taxpayers, businesses, regions, provincial governments and possibly municipalities and other public organizations. Careful scrutiny of these proposals with respect to their impact on this government's fiscal, economic and social objectives is obviously required.

We intend to participate fully in a consultation process with the federal government and the other provinces, which begins with a meeting of officials on July 10 and will include, I expect, a meeting of ministers in the fall.

As we begin this process, I emphasize that we will want to listen to the views expressed by interested citizens, groups and businesses in our province. Also, I intend to refer the white paper to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs with the expectation that it will hold public hearings beginning in September and report to the Legislature. To facilitate the process

of the committee, Treasury staff will provide a series of technical reports on various aspects of the white paper after they have consulted with federal officials.

There are some aspects of the white paper that I would like to comment on now. Members will already be familiar with the main elements of its proposals.

With respect to personal income tax, the main thrust of the proposals is to reduce the number of brackets from 10 to three, convert a number of exemptions and deductions into nonrefundable tax credits and generally effect a reduction in the total amount of income taxes paid to the federal government. We estimate, based on the information we now have, that the personal income tax proposals would reduce the Ontario portion of this tax by \$411 million in 1988 and an amount slightly larger than that in the years up to 1992. There will be an automatic increase in established programs financing payments to Ontario of about \$100 million per year, bringing the net impact to a loss of about \$300 million per year in these revenues.

On the corporate side, the proposals aim to broaden the base of the tax by reducing or eliminating certain write-offs and deductions and to lower the overall tax rate. Generally, federal corporate tax revenues would increase. If the base-broadening proposals were fully implemented in the Ontario corporation income tax, our revenues would rise by about \$165 million in 1988 and by an amount substantially more than that in each of the following four years. By 1992, Ontario's revenues would be \$612 million greater from corporations under these assumptions.

It must be borne in mind, however, that Ontario's comparative position with US federal and state corporation tax rates is of prime importance in order to maintain and strengthen our ability to compete. A careful review of provincial rates in the light of the federal proposal must be undertaken.

As I indicated in my budget statement last month, this government welcomes tax reform initiatives that will deal with the unfairness of the current tax structure, ensure that our economy continues to create jobs and be competitive, make the system simpler and improve national tax harmony. I am encouraged to see the emphasis placed on reducing the tax burden of lower income people, since the federal government has been adding to that burden in its previous budgets. Also, the shift to a tax credit rather than an exemption system takes a step

towards a guaranteed income system, an area that will receive particular attention in our analysis of the white paper.

In examining the overall impact of the tax proposals, one of my major concerns will be to assess their effects on middle-income families. In my budget statement I encouraged Mr. Wilson to take back his \$500,000 capital gains exemption. His proposal to leave it in force for small businesses and farmers, while reducing the general exemption to \$100,000, is in line with our recommendations.

One implication of the personal income tax package that will have to be looked at is the reduced incentive for making charitable donations. Hospital boards and many other charitable organizations will want to assess the impact of this measure on their future fund-raising abilities. Careful assessment of the impact of the white paper on the education system is also needed. The proposed treatment of charitable donations and the changes to tax relief in respect of educational expenses will affect students, their parents and our educational institutions.

I intend to examine fully the impact of the tax measures on job creation and investment and, in particular, what their effect would be in the context of a Canada-US trade agreement. Important sectors of the Canadian economy could have their taxpaying circumstances altered significantly under the corporation income tax proposals.

The white paper itself documents that mining, manufacturing and financial institutions, insurance and real estate—industries that are heavily concentrated in Ontario—will all pay more. Our analysis of the proposals and the reaction of these industries, which provide about 30 per cent of the jobs in our province and have generated about 45 per cent of its real growth over the last several years, will be an important part of our review.

The implications for housing construction and the economy of northern Ontario will also have to be studied very carefully. Another area of concern will be the impact of the proposals on Canadian film development and other cultural industries.

1350

For the second phase of the tax change process, the white paper proposes three options to replace the federal sales tax, including a federal goods and services tax, a federal value added tax and a national sales tax.

The proposals for a multistage federal sales tax are one of the most difficult, complex and controversial parts of the package. The federal

government has invited the provinces to consider participating in a new national sales tax.

In Ontario we have a mature, well-understood sales tax system, which is productive and up front. As I indicated on Thursday night, I am not anxious to eliminate the provincial sales tax. It is up to the federal government to persuade provincial treasurers of the advantages of a new national sales tax.

Through the public hearings of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, I expect we will hear the view of Ontario's citizens, businesses, municipal governments and other affected groups and agencies which will help us evaluate the final implications of the federal proposals, some of which may impose considerable new costs on their operations.

My final point in this statement concerns the overall impact of the proposals on the provincial fiscal situation. I have already referred to the white paper estimates of the impact of its personal and corporate income tax proposals on provincial revenues on a calendar year basis. This estimate does not take into account any potential impact of a new sales tax on provincial expenditures. It also assumes that the province parallels all base changes and makes no adjustment in its own tax rates.

Under these assumptions, our revenues would fall by \$136 million in the first year. However, the white paper also includes a provision for a one-time personal income tax payment acceleration in 1988. Taking this impact into account, our revenues would rise by \$77 million in 1988. After a slight decline in 1989, Ontario revenues rise somewhat through 1992. These figures are presented in an appendix to this statement.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I look forward to extensive consultation on all aspects of tax reform. At the appropriate time, I expect to report more formally to members on the status of our deliberations with respect to the federal white paper.

RESPONSES

FEDERAL TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

Mr. Grossman: Responding to the response of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) on the federal white paper, I would like to begin by pointing out just how hypocritical some of the comments contained in his statement are.

The Treasurer begins by suggesting that this matter will be referred to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. That is the same committee which recommended that the Treasurer do something dramatic about the deficit this

year, and that his budget accommodate increases of a dramatic nature as well in the education areas; two of the most critical recommendations, and he ignored both of these.

Second, the Treasurer had—what shall we call it?—the temerity to suggest over the weekend that this may offer him another excuse for having to increase provincial taxes once again; this from a Treasurer who in two budgets increased 19 taxes in Ontario: personal income tax, corporate income tax, gasoline tax, land transfer tax, even fishing licences, automobile licences, liquor licence fees, and on and on to a total of 19 tax increases.

For this Treasurer now to try to find an excuse for another tax increase, as opposed to an excuse for a tax decrease, is appalling and will undo all or any good the federal government reform measures intend to do. We can hardly talk about tax reform in this province when this Treasurer has 60 per cent more money coming in in personal income tax, has increased 19 taxes and, in total, has about 50 per cent more revenue to spend and does not care a twit about reducing the tax burden on people in Ontario.

I thought too that it was an opportunity for the Treasurer to lay out in some proper perspective on pages 3 and 4, not his concern about losing personal income tax points but rather to highlight the appendix which he chose, just in essence, to leave in the appendix. The appendix shows that the revenue implications begin at plus \$77 million for Ontario in 1988 and, with the exception of 1989, then skyrocket to plus \$227 million by 1992.

With this extra revenue coming in, a responsible Treasurer in this environment should have been talking about piggybacking on the federal proposals by perhaps revoking his gasoline tax increase, by perhaps giving back some of the personal income tax increase he put in, by perhaps revoking or narrowing down some of the corporate income taxes he increased, particularly since he refers so eloquently to the concerns he has about our competitive environment in the tax area.

I might say that on page 4 he has the nerve to say, "I am encouraged to see the emphasis placed on reducing the tax burden of lower-income people, since the federal government has been adding to that burden in its previous budgets." The Treasurer holds the Canadian national record for increasing the tax burden on lower-income people. He should be thanking the federal government for trying to alleviate the burden he put on lower-income people in this province.

I might also say that on page 5 the Treasurer wrings his hands over two items: first, funding for education and the impact the tax changes might have; this from the Treasurer who has reduced funding for elementary and secondary school education by \$61 million this year and has reduced dramatically the proportion of the provincial budget spent on education, in this case by about one per cent of the total overall spending.

The Treasurer then goes on to express his great concern about the impact of all this in the context of a Canada-US trade agreement. If the Treasurer has this concern, may I invite him to invite his leader to get off the fence and get involved in the Canada-US trade negotiations so the Treasurer will not have to stand on the sidelines wringing his hands worrying about those negotiations, whereby he may find a launching pad for more tax increases.

All in all, in this amount of time after the federal white paper has come forward, it might have been appropriate for the Treasurer and his staff to have been straightforward in terms of the revenue impact and say he would hope these tax reforms will give him an opportunity to make Ontario more competitive and to take back some of the 19 tax increases he personally has brought in during the last two years.

Mr. Harris: I just want to comment on page 1, the section that says: "It is important to recognize at this time that this is a white paper. There will be a period of consultation. ... It is our understanding that no substantive legislation will be brought down until the late fall." We concur. I wonder if the Treasurer may want to relay that position to his federal colleague.

Mr. Laughren: A couple of months ago, before the Treasurer's budget and before, of course, the federal white paper on tax reform, this party had asked the Treasurer to introduce an element of fairness to this tax system in Ontario, at which point he replied, "Well, we do not want to do anything dramatic while the federal white paper is pending."

The Treasurer has no more excuses. The white paper has been presented, and in the Treasurer's statement, he states on page 4, "As I indicated in my budget statement last month, this government welcomes tax reform initiatives that will deal with the unfairness of the current tax structure."

The Treasurer keeps saying those kind of words but does nothing at all to implement them. The Treasurer had an opportunity in his own budget to introduce some fairness to the Ontario tax structure and did virtually nothing at all. It is

still an outrage in Ontario that a family of four living at the poverty level pays provincial income taxes in the neighbourhood of \$400. Totally, they pay more than \$1,000 in income taxes to the federal and provincial levels. The Ontario Treasurer has not introduced a minimum corporate tax, which he could have done. We still have no succession duties, and we still have a capital gains exemption.

Finally, I think it should be clearly understood by people in Ontario just what the federal government intends to do with its national sales tax. Unquestionably, that will mean a sales tax on virtually everything consumers buy, and I suspect that will include food as well. It makes me very nervous to see the Treasurer flirting with the federal government in terms of co-operating on a national sales tax program that will undoubtedly include higher sales taxes, which everyone knows are a form of regressive tax. I would urge the Treasurer to dig in and not give in to the implementation of a national sales tax, which I believe will include a tax on food as well.

1400

Mr. Rae: In following up the comments of my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), I just want to indicate that what we see here is the emergence of a Nixon-Wilson axis, a collaboration between the Liberal Party of Ontario and the Conservative Party of Canada to take money out of the pockets of working people and to raise taxes across the country. Ontario will be into it up to its eyeballs.

Nowhere in this statement do we see from the Treasurer of Ontario the kind of attack on the program announced on Thursday by the federal Minister of Finance that the people of this province would expect to see from a Treasurer who was really fighting for them, their interests and their families. What was announced by Mr. Wilson on Thursday was a fraud on the Canadian public. He was simply announcing that he was going to be giving with one hand and then taking with the other in an enormous tax grab, post-election.

Do we see the Treasurer of Ontario standing up and fighting against that? No. What we see him saying is: "It might not be so bad. It is going to give me an extra \$500 million until 1992. Why should I rock the boat? Why should I complain when this money is coming forward and falling into my hands like so much manna from heaven?"

In the last two years, we have seen a transformation of the Treasurer, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, formerly somebody who

spoke up against the sales tax, formerly somebody who when he was in opposition made fun of the reliance of the Tory party on the sales tax. Now he praises the sales tax in Ontario and says, "At least it is up front." So was Jesse James; he was up front too, and the Treasurer is no better than Jesse James.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Grossman: My question is for the Premier. In the Meech Lake accord, the right is given to provinces to opt out of national shared-cost programs, with compensation. I am sure that before he signed that agreement, he would have been aware of the number of federal-provincial agreements—at least the major ones—that come up for renewal in the next period of time and thus would be caught by this clause. I wonder if he might share with the House, say, the two or three major federal-provincial programs that will be up for renewal, say, in the next two years.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I guess implicit in what my honourable friend is suggesting is that there will be some major fragmentation of the programs. Let me give my honourable friend an indication of what is transpiring at the present time. For the last several months, there have been intensive discussions with the federal government with respect to a national child care program. This kind of program would come into effect under that provision.

What it says is that the federal government can set the national objectives, but in areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction. So it is not as if there are any new powers conferred one way or the other. As the member knows, with the national assistance act and others there are various different types of programs across the country at the present time. That kind of thing will be ongoing. There will be consultation with respect to the national objectives and the federal government will have the final authority.

Mr. Grossman: Before the Premier has to go to Hansard and correct it again, I presume he meant the Canada assistance plan, not the national assistance plan. I will save him the problem of contacting Hansard.

Might I repeat the question he still has not answered? I am sure he is aware of the number of federal-provincial programs, shared-cost programs, that will expire in the next two years and thus be quite impacted by the accord he signed. Could he—I repeat the question once again—share

with us which major cost-sharing programs will expire in the next 24 months?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot give the precise number. There is vocational rehabilitation and a variety of others. There is nothing new or dramatic about this. It is on an ongoing basis. They are regularly being renegotiated and discussed.

Mr. Grossman: That is of course—

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Give us a list, Larry.

Mr. Grossman: I might say to the Treasurer that I would have thought his Premier might have had a list before he was so eager to sign the accord, that he might have known how many people he was putting at risk in this province to having totally new programs; but of course, just as he did not understand the immigration clause, he did not even know which federal-provincial programs were up for grabs.

Could the Premier outline for us one major federal-provincial program that will expire in the next two years and thus be subject to the possibility of the federal-provincial differing arrangements coming into force. Tell us just one of the major cost-sharing programs the Premier put subject to this particular new clause.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer to the honourable member's question is it will not come into effect until it is passed by all the Legislatures; and it takes three years to do that, so the answer to the question is none. The Leader of the Opposition does not know the question. That is the problem.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier does not know what he signed. He does not know what is in the accord. He does not know the impact of the accord. He does not know the questions and he does not know the answers. The Premier has embarrassed this province in signing that accord.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Grossman: My question is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Can the minister today simply confirm that the maximum liability he and his government have placed the taxpayers in, in terms of the Urban Transportation Development Corp. sale to Lavalin, is \$190 million payable by the province to Lavalin on October 15, 1987?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: No, I cannot confirm that to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Grossman: I am not surprised the minister does not know. We are used to that. Would the minister not agree—

Mr. Barlow: He doesn't know.

Mr. Grossman: It is probably the first time he has seen it. How is he going to answer it?

Would the minister not agree that the cancellation of the Via order will impact the deal by \$190 million and that by the terms of the Via Rail side letter, which we finally got from the minister, the minister must compensate Lavalin on October 15, 1987 or go to arbitration for that amount? Would the minister not confirm that is precisely the arrangement? What alternative arrangements has he made to compensate Lavalin to date?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: That is the same side letter the leader had some time ago. It has not changed anything since he asked the questions previously. I remind the leader that it was his friends in Ottawa who cancelled the Via order which was anticipated by the consortium that was established between UTDC and Bombardier, but I cannot confirm the figure he is using. He is using a figure that does not relate in any way to the side letter or the arrangement that was made between this government and with Lavalin.

Mr. Grossman: Let us be clear. The minister may not have anticipated the cancellation of the order, but certainly Lavalin anticipated the cancellation of the order. That is why they refused to close the deal without having the minister's signature and that of his government and Kirk Foley on behalf of UTDC to this undertaking prior to closing the deal. They were prudent enough to anticipate the possibility of that order not going through. I presume the minister was so careless that he and his government would agree to sign anything, which has now resulted in a possible liability to the Ontario taxpayers of \$190 million.

Just to clarify what liability the minister put the taxpayers under in this province, I shall ask a question which will give the minister the opportunity to clarify it. Would the minister agree that this document makes the government liable to Lavalin for a certain amount due to the cancellation of that order? Second, can he give us his estimate at this time—and I am sure he has one—of what that liability might be?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I am not sure which question the Leader of the Opposition wanted answered first. Like so many of the figures he has used related to this transaction, I do not know where the leader gets the figure of \$190 million. Any liability this government would incur relates only to the unused capacity in a couple of years time, and this government has managed to keep UTDC and Lavalin busy, both with the orders in Kingston and Thunder Bay now and for the next

couple of years, and we have all kinds of prospects across North America. I do not think that clause is ever going to be utilized to the disbenefit—

Mr. Grossman: Of course it will, on October 15.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: No. That is only when it triggers in to even start to negotiate. Perhaps the member should read it further.

1410

AUTO PACT

Mr. Rae: I have a question of the Premier about the auto pact and the free trade discussions between Canada and the United States.

Many people who have watched the Premier over the last two years feel there is a kind of double game being played. On the one hand, the Premier is indicating to the federal government all kinds of general concerns with respect to the negotiations. In particular, apparently, he has most recently raised the question of the inclusion of the auto pact in those discussions, yet the Premier knows full well that the auto pact in effect has been on the table since those negotiations began. He is fully aware of that. He knows it. He knows that is the cost of doing this kind of business in terms of these discussions.

Now we have the staff briefing memorandum of the US Congress, of which I have a copy, with respect to a conversation with Bill Merkin, the deputy chief US negotiator, in which he states categorically: "Auto tariffs will also be dropped. The administration is also trying to address the issue of offshore production and plant closings."

I wonder if the Premier can tell us when he is finally going to get off the fence and simply indicate to the federal government that not only is it his desire that something special be done with respect to the auto pact but simply state categorically that any agreement which includes the auto pact is not acceptable to the people of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: May I say to the honourable member, I am delighted to have his support, because that was done probably a year and a half ago, I think, and many times along the way. I think my position is very clear. If my honourable friend cannot see it clearly, that speaks to his deficiencies. I am glad he brought the question up, because it has been raised on many occasions.

As the member knows, he has had assurances from the Prime Minister on this particular matter. I hope we can take those at face value. But it is a position on which this government is clear and

unequivocal. I am very happy to say that it has had the support of this House as well. I am surprised the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition did not bring that question up today, because it is important, and it is important that the message goes clearly forward from this House with respect to the integrity of the auto pact and its importance for all of Canada.

Mr. Rae: Before the Premier rewrites history entirely, let me remind him it was over a year and a half ago that I told him in this place that he was the last person in Canada to believe Prime Minister Mulroney when it came to any assurances of what was or what was not on the table.

What I want to ask the Premier is, what is it going to take to get him to stop the talks in their tracks and simply to start standing up for the working people of this province when it comes to an agreement that he has been involved in, that he is implicated in, that he has condoned, that his officials have participated in, on which they have been in briefings up to their eyeballs; they have participated and been in on them?

I say to the Premier, what is it going to take for him to change that tactic of simply going along in order to get along, and do something concrete and specific in order to stop the talks in their tracks when it comes to the auto pact and other problems which are going to take jobs away from the people of Ontario and not provide employment to Ontarians?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: In spite of my honourable friend's rhetorical flourish today I can say, and any close observer of the talks would say, that Ontario has occupied that position for a long period of time. I do not have to come to the leader of the third party and apologize for the forcefulness of our position. Indeed, he may want to observe a little more closely what is going on there. Our position is clear. It is on the record. It has been on the record many times. My honourable friend may not see it, but I can assure him that everyone else sees it.

Mr. Rae: I want to indicate to the Premier that when history is written what it will show is this: the Premier of Ontario had an opportunity two years ago to stop the talk in its tracks. He chose not to do so. He chose to get along, to saunter along, to raise academic, theoretical questions but never to be there when the tough questions had to be dealt with. When there was a question as to whether the talks would proceed or not, Ontario said, "Proceed."

I would like to ask the Premier, what is it going to take for him to understand that Canada's interests and Ontario's interests are being sold

out? He has been there, supposedly helping; he has not been helping, and he has not been dealing with that issue. What is it going to finally take for him to deal with that issue? What is it going to take?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not want my honourable friend to have a stroke on this particular issue. What is it going to take for him to take a breath of air in between those accusations?

I say to my honourable friend, he is absolutely wrong. He is a victim of his ideological straitjacket, intellectually so; he has been that way for a long period of time. I can tell him that any observer of this scene knows that Ontario has been constructive, it has been forceful, it has been direct and it has put forward its positions in very clear and unequivocal terms.

My honourable friend will know the federal government has the right to talk with the United States whether we like it or not, but we have the right to protect Ontario in the areas of our jurisdiction, to protect all of Canada, and I can tell my honourable friend we are prepared to exercise those prerogatives and those powers any time it is necessary.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. Rae: By the time the Premier makes up his mind, the agreement will have been signed, sealed and delivered five years before. That is the truth of the matter.

Mr. Speaker: The new question is to which minister?

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Rae: My question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The general insurance companies in Canada writing auto insurance and other forms of casualty and property insurance have just issued their profit figures for the first quarter of 1987. They show that in the first quarter of 1987, the period ending March 31, the insurance companies had their best first quarter ever on record, record-breaking profits, nearly \$378 million, a yearly net income figure ending March 31 of \$1.17 billion.

Can the minister explain why, when faced with those figures, he chose to take as his period of the cap the period after the biggest profit increases in the history of the insurance industry of Canada? Does he not realize that his proposals are going to build in the most inflationary increases that have ever been seen in the history of Canada?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The leader of the third party, as he usually does, indicates he does not

understand what that legislation is. The whole essence behind Bill 56 is to be an interim stage so that when the rate review board comes in, and until it does, the industry cannot raise rates in anticipation. It has nothing to do with what has gone on in the past. It was meant to be an interim step to keep the companies from trying to anticipate a rate increase in anticipation of the rate review board.

Mr. Rae: The minister may be right. I may not understand much but I think I understand the minister and I understand exactly whose interests he is protecting when it comes to car insurance in the province. That much I understand.

I just go back to my question. Can the minister tell us why he chose to entrench the most inflationary increases of all time as the basic standard by which he would allegedly be "protecting" the drivers of Ontario in this so-called interim legislation, which is the only legislation, I might point out, we have been privileged to see introduced by this government?

Can the minister explain why he chose those extraordinarily exorbitant profit figures as his base? Is he perhaps relying on the rather porcine presence of the insurance industry, as it is presented in its ads recently?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Again, I repeat that the reason we chose April 23 is that April 23 is the date I made the announcement. We were saying we were going to be implementing a rate review board that would take effect and it would take a look at all the rate categories in Ontario. It would make determinations based on its investigation, but in anticipation of that I wanted to prevent the insurance companies from raising their rates before the rate review board came in. That is the only purpose of Bill 56.

Mr. Swart: I am really amazed that the minister has expressed no concern over an 80 per cent increase in profits over and above the previous highest profits in history. It is almost unbelievable.

Given that the minister is a willing participant in letting, even assisting, the insurance companies to sucker the motorists of this province, will he now do something real for the motorists? Given these horrendous profits, will he replace his useless rate-schedule-capping bill with a real freeze, retroactive to January 1, so that no driver, unless his or her record has worsened, will pay a cent more for insurance in 1987 than he or she did in 1986; and will he require the insurance companies to refund everything that has been paid this year above the 1986 rate?

1420

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: For some time now, the member for Welland-Thorold has been getting on his soapbox and reiterating the terrible horrors that are going on in Ontario.

If I could have the indulgence of the members of the third party, I would like to quote from a letter sent by Barbara Powell of Coquitlam, British Columbia, that appeared in the London Free Press. It says: "Upon obtaining a residence here in BC, we contacted the provincially run Insurance Corp. of British Columbia for coverage equalling that of our Ontario policy. The full price given was \$927. With our current two-year safe driving record, that amount is discounted 20 per cent to \$742, still over \$200 more than our annual payments in Ontario. Not only this, but IBC requires that the amount be paid in full by cash or cheque within 30 days of obtaining a BC residence."

"In comparing the systems, it seems apparent that provincial control means a decrease in personal service and the loss of the competitive market and the consumer freedom to shop and compare—a substantial loss of flexibility in the system."

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question.

Mr. Grossman: I hate to interrupt the policy research of the minister.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Grossman: I want to come back to the Minister of Transportation and Communications, who a moment ago denied the liability and the extent of the liability to Lavalin.

On May 19 of this year, just over a month ago, we raised this issue in the minister's absence with the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), who was well seized of the knowledge. In the lengthy answer he offered us, he said, "We have a potential liability of \$190 million."

Was the Treasurer wrong, totally wrong or somewhat wrong when he gave that information to the House? If he was wrong, how wrong was he?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I can say without equivocation that the Treasurer of this province is never wrong. However, the figure of \$190 million refers to 50 per cent of the Via Rail order, the 50 per cent that Lavalin may have gotten. That is where the \$190 million comes from.

Mr. Grossman: We are talking about almost a \$200-million liability to the Ontario taxpayers;

enough of the minister's flippancy and cuteness here. The Treasurer has not said the total liability to be shared among others, but he has said the potential liability, which the Treasurer has to pay for out of provincial revenues—and I presume he would have known the amount—is quite clearly \$190 million.

Every reading of the documentation would also indicate that the total amount of the Via Rail deal has to be compensated by the provincial government.

I will read from the undertaking. "The parties acknowledge and agree that the work expected to be available to the new company from the Via project was fundamental to the decision to enter into this agreement." It goes on to say, "If it is not available to the new company by September 15, 1987, an appropriate compensation shall be negotiated. In the event you are unable to reach agreement on the compensation by October 15, 1987, arbitration begins."

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Grossman: In view of that clear documentation, would the minister please be kind enough to admit that the information he offered a moment ago was perhaps inaccurate and that by September 15—and the latest, October 15 of this year—he has to come up with compensation for the \$190-million liability which the Treasurer has confirmed he has?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I have to repeat that the \$190 million is the total value of Lavalin's share of the order, not the exposure to Ontario. We do not have to come up with \$1.90 in September or October of this year. The side letter that the Leader of the Opposition refers to—and I have a copy of it as well—only triggers arbitration that would not take effect for two or three years, depending on levels of production within Lavalin.

SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

Mr. Foulds: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. The minister will be aware of the desperate shortage of speech pathologists in northern Ontario. For example, the Elliot Lake hospital, St. Joseph's General Hospital, has been trying without success to get a speech pathologist for five years. He will know that children in Thunder Bay have to wait nine months to a year for assessment. He will know that stroke victims throughout the north do not recover their speech because of a lack of speech pathologists.

Does the minister recall making a commitment to me on February 10, in the estimates of his

ministry, and in this House on February 11, that something would be done within a week or two? If he does, can the minister tell me why, as of Friday of last week, nothing had been done?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: May I turn this over to the Minister of Community and Social Services, who is right on top of the situation?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As the honourable member well knows, we—the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services—have a bursary program to train northern students in the very areas he has described. Part of the difficulty, as he also knows, is the shortage of spaces in Ontario universities in which those students can be trained.

I have consulted with the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara). He, in turn, has consulted with universities across the province which offer these programs, suggesting it might be in their best interest to expand them. If that is not forthcoming, we are prepared to have those students trained outside Ontario. The only condition we would attach is that their credentials would be recognized once they come back to Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Foulds: I would like to ask a supplementary question, and ask the minister to redirect it to the Premier.

As it is a matter in which the Premier must knot together the bureaucratic obfuscation that has taken place among the Ministry of Skills Development, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health, so that this problem has not and will not be solved, will the minister ask the Premier to stand in his place and answer the question so that students will get more bursaries, those bursaries will be available if they go to schools outside Ontario and the Premier will double the number of spaces available in Ontario before September of this year?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As I am sure the honourable member is also aware, the money for the bursaries for both the Ministry of Health and for my ministry comes from the Premier's Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. Therefore, he is very much involved in the process. He has made it very clear to the three ministers that he does want a resolution to this.

The difficulty my colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities has is that he is not able to dictate to the universities that they must expand certain programs or that they must create programs. He is prepared to attempt to get that

expansion. If it does not happen, then we will deal with the problem in the way in which I described to the member.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. O'Connor: I have a question for the Attorney General.

The minister will be aware of the barring of 11-year-old Sandra Bernier from serving as an altar girl at Sacre-Coeur church in Toronto solely and only because of her gender. In the light of the minister's publicly espoused commitment to equality rights, particularly his support of the Justine Blainey case and his quest for fairness, could the minister advise the House what steps he intends to take to rectify this discrimination against this young girl?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I had not, frankly, turned my mind to the question of whether the provisions of the Human Rights Code applied to this particular case, but the honourable member can be sure I will do so. I thank him for his question.

Mr. O'Connor: To add to the weight of the argument, the minister will understand the parallel that does exist between the two cases. We are dealing here with two significant provincial institutions, one being the Ontario Hockey Association and one being the Roman Catholic Church, both of which are subject to the general laws of the province and one of which has been brought to its knees, so to speak, in allowing a young girl to play hockey on boys' teams.

Can the minister see the parallel and would he take that into account when determining whether it is subject to the Human Rights Code?

1430

Hon. Mr. Scott: Only my honourable friend, like myself a Roman Catholic, could make the comparison of Mother Church and its outpost in Toronto to a hockey league, but I understand the point he has made and I undertake to look into the question of whether the provisions of the Human Rights Code apply to this particular case.

POLICE PURSUITS

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Solicitor General. Almost every day the press reports another high-speed police chase in Ontario. We have the worst record in Canada for fatalities and injuries from this dangerous practice. When is the minister going to end this carnage by issuing a clear-cut statement to all police commissions and police forces in Ontario that high-speed police chases are not an acceptable method of law enforcement in this province?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I can say to the honourable member that at no time during my tenure of office will I be declaring a policy that totally alleviates and rids us of all high-speed chases. It is not my intention. In the very intensive review we have done, we intend to see how it can be restricted, so that there is an opportunity to weigh carefully all the voices that are heard on this issue. There is a very large constituency on both sides of the question. We are currently in the process of going through our cabinet committee on justice and then on to cabinet very shortly.

Ms. Bryden: The minister has been giving this answer and similar promises of impending action for almost two years, but nothing ever happens. In the meantime, innocent people are being killed or injured or suffer serious property damage. Public outcry is growing. When will the minister stop stalling and demand that police commissions and forces immediately start instituting alternatives to police chases and bring out guidelines which will assist them in the kind of alternatives he would recommend?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: We have a set of guidelines at the moment that have been widely circulated. We are going to take new guidelines on which the work has just about been completed and will probably be passed as regulations which make them mandatory across the province.

At the moment, there are a set of guidelines in accordance with the number of police commissions, as each has chosen to develop its own, which are quite consistent with those of the government but not totally in line. Our new policy, which I know will be before the respective committees very, very shortly, will give additional guidance and alternative measures to police officers before they initiate a pursuit, and also when they consider the abandonment of same.

PIT BULL TERRIERS

Mr. Brandt: I too have a question for the Solicitor General on a different topic, if I can get the Solicitor General's attention. As he is well aware, there have been a number of reported incidents throughout Canada and the United States with respect to the problem that was raised, I believe, by one of his colleagues as well, relating to the control of pit bull terriers. Recently in Alberta there was another incident written up in the media with respect to another attack by this particular breed of animal.

As the minister is aware, these animals are not bred as pets; they are bred as fighting animals. I would like to ask the Solicitor General if he

intends to bring forward any kind of additional regulatory control or legislation, which I think is badly needed in this province to control this type of vicious animal.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: Prior to bringing forth any legislation, it is always appropriate to find out the extent of the problem as it exists or the amount of concern that exists in the province. I note in today's media a number of incidents that have occurred with regard to the pit bull terriers and it is my intention to ask our officials to try to determine how widespread the use and abuse of such animals really is in this province. That will give us some guidance as to whether we should bring forward some regulations to limit the keeping, the breeding, etc., of these animals.

Mr. Brandt: I have a supplementary, because I do not think the minister indicates the kind of urgency I would like to see from his government with respect to this problem.

I urge the minister to move on this as expeditiously as possible, before another attack occurs. These animals are simply not controllable by their owners. There has been incident after incident which indicated that once the animal charges and attacks, the owners cannot break the animal loose from whomever the victim might happen to be. Before someone else is attacked, I urge the minister to do something to control this particular blight in our province. It is a horrendous problem that is going to cause harm to some individual in the not-too-distant future if he does not take action.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I am not sure whether there was a question. I did not hear one, but I might suggest that there is a particular act at the moment and it perhaps requires additional enforcement. The Dog Owners' Liability Act is one that would allow the police to take action against such dogs if they are shown to be unmanageable.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. McClellan: I have a question of the Minister of Labour with respect to a practice that was brought to my attention by the United Brewers Warehousing Workers' Provincial Board. The minister will know that Brewers' Warehousing is a private consortium of Labatt's, Carling and Molson breweries, and it has engaged the services, if we may refer to them as services, of a certain Robert Cronish, QC, who has been put on retainer to initiate appeals and to challenge the entitlement and the pension of every single employee of Brewers' Warehousing who is in receipt of a Workers' Compensation Board pension or benefit. Each and every

employee of Brewers' Warehousing who receives WCB benefits is having those benefits challenged.

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. McClellan: Would the minister undertake an investigation of this situation and report back to the House on the propriety of the three largest breweries in this province abusing their employees in this way, abusing the Workers' Compensation Act and violating the rights of employees to workers' compensation?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I do not think it is necessarily a matter of Brewers' Warehousing, Brewers' Retail or the three largest brewing companies. That is a matter that the honourable raises which, if true, would be of concern to me no matter who the employer would be.

I share the honourable member's concern over the obvious spinoff effects of this. While we would not want in any way to impede the right of employers to challenge a claim for entitlement where they feel there is a good and sound case, or indeed to challenge the level of a pension—that right, and I am sure the honourable member agrees with me, has always been given and is given fairly, just as the right is given on the other side—I would be greatly concerned if that right is to be used in any and all cases in which an employer is involved, and I indicate to the honourable member and to the House that I will raise this matter with Dr. Elgie, make inquiries and get back to the House as soon as I have further answers.

1440

Mr. McClellan: I understand the difficulty of the situation, but I think it would be helpful if the Minister of Labour investigated and made a statement, at least about the propriety of Molson, Carling and Labatt's treating their employees or anybody in this way.

By way of supplementary, it is my information as well that the three brewers, through their consortium, are using the medical reports, which their friend Cronish obtains through these blanket challenges, to question the right of injured employees to work at Brewers' Warehousing and to use these medical reports as the basis for harassment and even dismissal of injured workers, as I say based on the medical reports that Mr. Cronish is able to obtain from the Workers' Compensation Board in the course of these spurious appeals.

May I ask the minister, therefore, to investigate that matter as well and to comment on when he will bring in an amendment to the Workers'

Compensation Board that will provide mandatory reinstatement of injured workers with the accident employer as a matter of legal right?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I certainly will take up the additional issue that the honourable member has raised because there is an important principle at stake. I agree with the difficulty of the issue, but nevertheless I think it is one that needs to be addressed.

In terms of mandatory reinstatement, we are currently awaiting final comments from a number of parties on all sides of the issue of permanent partial disabilities. We have asked for these comments by the end of this month, and once we have received them we will begin to put together our package of amendments, which I hope to present to the House in the fall.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Gillies: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister will be aware that on May 25, a 160-ton crane overturned at the construction site of the domed stadium. His ministry's report on this incident has now been made available to us. This could have been a much more serious accident with potential loss of life, and his ministry's report indicates that the operation of moving the crane could have been carried out in a safe manner had the manufacturer's instructions been carried out, which they were not. Given this negligence on the part of Ellis-Don Construction, will his ministry be laying charges in this matter?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am glad my honourable friend has already reached a conclusion. The honourable member knows that these matters, where appropriate, are referred to the legal branch for consideration. Should it be deemed advisable that charges be laid, the appropriate charges against the employer will be laid.

Mr. Harris: Early fall?

Mr. Gillies: Now that the minister has the report from his own officials, we would have expected a somewhat more definitive answer. In view of the fact that this is one of the largest construction projects going on in the city of Toronto right now, probably in the province—the number of workers and the amount of activity is considerable—will the minister give this House an undertaking to make special efforts to have inspection services on site so that the many workers working at a feverish pace on the domed stadium are guaranteed the kind of protection they deserve?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I can tell the honourable member that the frequency of inspections obvi-

ously goes up with the complexity and size of these construction projects and it is no different in terms of the SkyDome project. As the honourable member points out, the inspection report into this crane incident, which we are very thankful did not lead to injuries or death, is now complete. Matters will go on to the legal branch. I know the honourable member knows the procedures that are followed. I am very surprised and really quite amazed that his colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) does not understand that these matters go forward in the regular way and are handled by the legal services branch of the ministry, so that politics is kept out of these very serious matters.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Grande: My question is for the Minister of Housing. The minister is more than likely aware that on June 11, in his absence, I asked the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) to pass on certain documents to him that indicated clearly that a landlord demanded \$1,600 key money from tenants. I assume the Treasurer passed on that information. Can the minister report on the investigation his ministry carried out on The Eglinton Terrace Inc.?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I have not yet seen that case and I am not aware of any cases where there was key money being handed to a landlord. If there are such, there are processes within the ministry that can handle that situation.

Mr. Grande: I am appalled that the Minister of Housing is standing in his place, 11 days after a question has been brought to this House where \$1,600 key money had been paid by tenants to a landlord—illegal money, according to his law, Bill 54—and the minister says he has done nothing up to now. I will pass the documents on to the minister if the Treasurer has not given them to him yet.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Grande: Would the minister get on with investigating this situation and lay charges with this landlord before other landlords get the idea that the Minister of Housing is not going to investigate illegal key money questions in this province?

Hon. Mr. Curling: Lest the member go away feeling that the matter has not been investigated, I just said that I personally have not seen it. I understand from the Treasurer that he did pass it on to my staff. Please do not give the impression that we do not have a process in place to look after key money and a proper investigation take place.

Many times members rise in this House and feel we conduct investigations inside this House. The staff of the ministry is handling the matter, and I will personally get back to the member and give him an update of where the case is.

Mr. McFadden: I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Housing about a matter of great concern to many tenants in Metropolitan Toronto. Numerous rental units in Metropolitan Toronto are being leased and then rented out as short-term residences to out-of-town visitors at inflated rates. As the minister is aware, it is illegal for landlords and tenants to rent out residential rental units if the rent charged is above the legal rent provided for under rent review.

My staff has discovered, for example, that Manfred Schon, president of Executive Suites Ltd., has possession of numerous apartment units in north Toronto for this purpose. My staff has raised this problem with the officials of the Ministry of Housing. Is this particular practice contrary to Bill 51; and if it is, when can we expect provincial housing legislation to be enforced to deal with this kind of practice?

Hon. Mr. Curling: Yes, the act is contrary to Bill 51; and as the honourable member stated or implied, a landlord cannot increase the rent more than once in any calendar year of that lease. If that is done, that makes it illegal. There is a process with which to deal with that.

Mr. McFadden: Besides the issue of the enforcement of the law, we have here a very serious situation where many tenants are tremendously anxious when they find strangers coming and going weekly out of neighbouring apartment units. Will the minister undertake to investigate thoroughly the instances of this kind of practice, which we understand is happening at 33 and 111 Davisville, 200 Balliol, 33 Orchard View Boulevard and 100 Wellesley Street East?

Hon. Mr. Curling: Definitely; if they are cases of impropriety, we will investigate and deal with the matter accordingly.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Mr. Hayes: My question is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. The people who have been travelling Highway 401 in my riding have been putting up with the deplorable condition of that particular part of the highway between Tilbury and Belle River for a long time. I understand there are no funds allocated for this fiscal year to do the work that is required to repair that stretch of the highway.

Can the minister tell us how much longer the people in that area have to put up with this deplorable condition of Highway 401 before he can get the the proper funds down there in the southern part of this province to fix that highway?

1450

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member will know I was down there and visited that section of the highway personally just a couple of weeks ago.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Does the member want an answer or not? The member was just as bad this morning on our competition.

I was down on that section of the 401 a couple of weeks ago and gave the member the commitment, as I did to the other people, that I would consider that a very high priority and address it as quickly as I could.

Mr. Hayes: I do not know how the minister can say it is a high priority; maybe he could give us a date. What has happened is they have done a 22-kilometre stretch, and there is at least four or five times that much more to go. I would just like the minister at this time to give us a date when he is going to proceed with the work on the 401 and let the people down in that part of the province know that Ontario does not stop in London, Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: With the amount of attention Essex county has had from this government over the last two years, I think the people down in that area know full well that this government pays equal attention to them. The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) has been extremely successful in getting the attention of this government.

As I said in the first response, it was only, I think, two weeks ago last Friday that the matter of the westbound lanes of the 401 was brought to our attention. We are addressing that as a top priority. I cannot give the member an answer today because of the planning and technical reviews that are required, but I will at the earliest possible date, as I promised him and the people.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Would the minister please advise this House on what plans the ministry has to upgrade or expand and improve GO Transit service on the Stouffville, Markham-Unionville-Milliken and Richmond Hill-Langstaff lines?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member for York Centre will well know that on May 7 I made a statement in this House that outlined the transit forum advisory group that we were establishing. It is now functioning within the greater Toronto area, including the entire region of York. They are participating. Certainly, we are looking to those expansions of the GO service as well as other interregional transit systems and transportation services.

Mr. Cousens: York region has doubled in size in the last five years. We still have only one train going down from Markham-Unionville-Milliken to Union Station. We still have the same service of 10 years ago on the Richmond Hill-Langstaff line. We have no peak-time service. We have no service on Saturdays or Sundays. There is no doubt that the east-west lines are served far better than the north-south lines. How much of the \$100 million that has been allocated in the budget is going to be spent in south York region?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Perhaps the member's colleague the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) would offer the Lakeshore extension funding to the Stouffville line. I do not expect that to happen. We made the financial commitment, in October 1985, to expand the Lakeshore line into Burlington and other places, which we are doing, and now we are looking at addressing the other needs on any other lines that are available to us, as the member well knows.

FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Solicitor General. Could he explain when this government will be able to respond to the resolution passed by the annual conference of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs in Niagara Falls in early May, in which it said, because of the high price of fire protection equipment and the requests that have been made by small municipalities for provincial assistance, that the provincial government should respond to the unanimous decision of the Legislative Assembly that such assistance be provided to small municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: One of the things we would look at in that regard is some of the other things we were doing to assist those same municipalities. Last year at approximately the same time there was a great demand from a number of members in both parties opposite for additional opportunities for the training of the volunteer sector of our firefighting department. We have increased that, as they know, very substantially this year to many more classes and additional

staff at the Ontario Fire College, so that trained firefighters will be the emphasis we are placing this year in our firefighting program.

Mr. Wildman: Perhaps the minister can make clear to us what he intends to train these firefighters to use if they do not have the hoses and nozzles, the protective equipment, the pumps and the vehicles they need in order to fight fires? There is no question they need more training, but surely they need the equipment on which to be trained.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: Yes, we all need equipment, but I think a survey of these northern units would find there has been considerable equipment provided for them through the northern development fund that has been established. They have had a great deal of it; they can always use more, as can every municipality everywhere.

HAZARDOUS WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY

Mr. Andrewes: I was inclined to ask a question of the minister without portfolio, but I see he is probably very busy with his plaques.

I want to put a question to the Minister of the Environment. The minister will be aware of something called a memorandum of understanding, which normally exists between ministers and the heads of crown agencies, which allows the minister to give certain policy direction to those crown agencies.

Can the Minister of the Environment tell me what direction he has given to the Ontario Waste Management Corp. regarding the researching and development of alternative technologies to the absolutely monstrous proposal it has proposed for my riding?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is interesting that in the last few years it has changed from a proposal to a monstrous proposal in the member's riding, but I certainly understand the member's concern at this time to ensure that there is an appropriate process followed.

In regard to the Ontario Waste Management Corp., which Premier Davis set up a number of years ago to deal with the problem of waste management in the province, particularly that of a hazardous nature, there is indeed a memorandum of understanding between the ministry and the OWMC.

I can tell the member that on many public occasions—and I think he may be aware of this if I try to stir his memory in this regard—I have indicated a desire to see a number of options looked at in terms of dealing with hazardous wastes in the province.

The member may recall that even last week I was discussing this at a waste management conference where I indicated that our ministry is involved in the business of encouraging industries to deal with many of their wastes at the site itself, either by the changing of process or by simply not utilizing materials in the first place that would produce this kind of material.

On a number of public occasions I have indicated to our ministry and to the OWMC that all possibilities should be explored in this regard.

Mr. Andrewes: I do not want to let the minister get away with scattering the pebbles on everything. Let us be specific. What policy direction, which it is the minister's prerogative to give through the memorandum of understanding, has the minister given to the Ontario Waste Management Corp. with regard to alternative technologies?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The mandate that Premier Davis established for the OWMC is a mandate that the OWMC is supposed to follow. I have indicated that I believe the OWMC should be following that particular mandate that was set out by the former Premier of this province when he established that corporation. When the member was a member of the cabinet, he will perhaps recall some of the discussions that took place at that time before there was a siting of the proposed facility in the constituency he represents. That is understandable.

I want to indicate, as the member would know, that in terms of process it is highly inopportune and inappropriate for the Minister of the Environment to interfere politically in the environmental assessment process as it relates to the OWMC. As the member will recall, before the site was selected, at a time when the member himself was somewhat neutral to the project, I indicated at that time that I would not give a political decision on the siting of the facility or the kind of facility that would be located there.

1500

FILM INDUSTRY

Mr. Allen: A question to the Minister of Citizenship and Culture: As she knows, her ministry has responsibility for a program, the Ontario Film Development Corp. With respect to the development of film in this province, I think she would be happy, as I am happy, that there have been so many foreign film crews in the province, in Toronto and neighbouring cities, doing film development.

Is the minister aware that the foreign film developers in this province, rather than availing

themselves regularly of our own film technicians, accountants and other personnel who are necessary for mounting these film operations, fly in outside personnel on a spot basis, such as director technicians or what have you, of whom we have very competent members in this province? What is she doing to protect the positions of those specialized people in film development in our province who so badly need that work and whom we need to give the work to in order to develop their crafts?

Hon. Ms. Munro: The ministry has been working with that particular cultural industry for a period of over two years. It is also pursuing the questions that the member has raised through the Ontario Film Development Corp. In terms of public issues that I have been stating, I have been recommending to various film endeavours to continue to use technicians and creative people living and residing in Ontario. I will continue to take forward the issue the member has raised. I wish to assure him, however, that it is an issue I am familiar with.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give you orally, under standing order 30(a), notice of my dissatisfaction with the answer of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) on behalf of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to my question about speech pathology. I will be filing the appropriate notice.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I can have the attention of the members. We have now come to petitions. Do any members have any petitions? Reports by committees?

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Laughren from the standing committee on resources development presented the committee's report and moved the adoption of its recommendations.

Mr. Laughren: I will make a very brief statement. There are a number of things I would like to have said about the committee's work. The committee worked very hard in coming up with a report on which there was consensus and then attached two minority reports to it; but I must say the whole process became redundant when the minister introduced legislation.

As committee chairman, I am getting increasingly concerned about committees going down

one track and the ministers of the crown going down another track, meaning that the committees are very often spinning their wheels and doing work that really has no relevance when the ministers of the crown decide to go their own ways. I think of a couple of examples.

One was this one where the committee was working very hard on the whole question of termination and severance pay, employee adjustment, justification for shutdowns and specific references to northern Ontario, and just as the committee completed its work, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) introduced his legislation. I think the government has to understand that if the committees are going to do good work, they have to feel they are doing relevant work.

The other example was when the same committee was holding public hearings on Bill 115, the Ontario Lottery Corporation Amendment Act. When the government moved it to third reading, it was referred back here to third reading and then the government decided not to call it for third reading.

If members of the assembly, particularly of the government and the cabinet, want committees to continue to do the important work of this assembly, they are going to have to treat the work those committees do in a more serious way and not regard them as simply something to take the heat off the government.

I, as just one committee chairman—I am not trying to attach any more importance to that position than it deserves—find it offensive to chair a committee, see members of all three parties working extremely hard on the reports, and then have all the work undone because of some kind of self-serving decision on the part of the cabinet.

On motion by Mr. Laughren, the debate was adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Mr. D. R. Cooke from the standing committee on finance and economic affairs presented the committee's report.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: This report is a unanimous report, but I have to emphasize it is a report of observation as opposed to recommendations that the committee made during its visit to Washington in April this year during which time we concentrated our efforts on discussions with members of the Congress concerning trade relations between the United States and Ontario. The committee was fortunate enough to meet in a very short period of time with, I believe,

something in the neighbourhood of 17 congressmen and senators.

The observations indicate the importance of continued discussions with members of the Legislature in that country and how important it is that we continue to talk to them, because in fact there were several instances in which we found that their use of the same language, the English language, is somewhat different from our own.

I would suggest that the one theme in these observations is that these discussions for the reasons of our very much intertwined trade situation should continue as often and as thoroughly as possible.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ELECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Cousens moved first reading of Bill 89, An Act to amend the Election Act, 1984.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cousens: This is a bill whereby, when it is passed, members of the armed forces, their spouses and their children who are of voting age will be allowed to vote in Ontario elections without having to fulfil the six months' residency status required under present legislation. This means that we show a special understanding of those who serve our country, who are moving not only within Canada but also across the world in the service of their land, when they come back to Ontario. Knowing they have kept in touch with what is going on in the province, they will then have an immediate—

1510

Mr. Speaker: Is there any other principle in the bill? You have explained the principle. You are now debating it.

Mr. Cousens: Therefore, I hope the House will appreciate the service of our armed forces and will quickly expedite the passage of this bill.

MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Warner moved first reading of Bill 90, An Act to amend the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Warner: Before we move to second reading, the purpose of the bill is to provide a vote on both the board of governors and the college council for students and staff members. The representatives are to be democratically elected by their peers with equal numbers of males and females from each group.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved second reading of Bill 79, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am pleased to lead off the debate on this legislation, Bill 79, the successor legislation to Bill 101, which will provide for worker and community right to know.

I think it is fair to suggest that the measure before the House today, for which we are asking approval in principle at this time, is central to the effort to prevent work place injury and illness. I know that all members are keenly aware of and interested in that matter and I look forward to contributions from all sides of the House.

In the last two years in which I have served as the Minister of Labour, it has become clear that optimal work place health and safety in Ontario requires, first, the vigilant and vigorous exercise of mutual responsibility by both labour and management in our work places; and second, the right mixture of prevention and protection with the accent on prevention.

The government proposal we are debating today, Bill 79, seeks to enhance both, for it seeks to provide the work place parties with information that they need to operate with the greater awareness that will produce prevention. It provides for full disclosure to employees of hazardous materials in the work place. It provides for participation by this province in the national work place hazardous materials information system, or WHMIS, which will ensure that information is presented to employees in a clear and understandable way, and most important, in a practical way. It provides that workers will receive the kind of training they need to make effective use of the information they have received, something that has not happened in the past, and if we are to talk about prevention something that will have to happen in the future.

Bill 79, which we are debating today, is designed to make sure that workers do know what is in the work place, what the potential hazards are and how to obviate those potential hazards.

Before I outline the clauses in this legislation, let me take members back to how the national right-to-know scheme will work, the WHMIS scheme. Through an amended Hazardous Products Act, Parliament intends to place duties on persons who supply hazardous materials for use in the work place. These duties will be to

evaluate the material pursuant to criteria set out in the regulations.

Where the material is deemed to be hazardous, labels on each container of the product will be required. As well, material safety data sheets will be required with the first consignment of the product to the work place. Details for the content of the labels and the MSDSs will be set out again in the federal regulations. The federal legislation will also provide exemptions from the disclosure of specific information for companies that fear their trade secrets will be breached. An agency to assess exemption requests, along with an appeals mechanism, will be created.

All that will come forward later this month. As I understand it, the federal government right now is either having or shortly will be having discussions at the committee stage, even while the final wording is being put on the amendments to the Hazardous Products Act. Those amendments will be presented later this month and it is expected they will pass before Parliament adjourns for the spring.

At the same time, our bill in Ontario, in concert with WHMIS, will require the employer to ensure that the labels and the MSDSs are present in the work place and that they are used by the people working with the substances. Employers would also have duties, where the product is produced in-house, to evaluate and provide labels. In both cases, the employer would require material safety data sheets to provide worker training.

It is specifically because this province is participating in the national scheme that much of the detail for our right-to-know system will be set out in the regulations. This approach will ensure that we have the flexibility, and we do need it, to be consistent with the federal legislation and indeed with the legislation that will be coming forward from our sister provinces.

In parallel with WHMIS, the main themes of Bill 79 involve ensuring, first, that clear information on hazardous materials and agents is disclosed at the work place; and second, that workers are trained to use that information in an effective manner. Bill 79, however, goes beyond the national base established by WHMIS in three important respects. It provides for inventories of hazardous materials and agents to be created and disclosed. It provides for information on physical hazards as well as chemical and biological ones, and uniquely it creates a community right to know about hazards in local work places.

In the area of disclosure, the proposed section 22b places a duty on employers to ensure that

hazardous substances present in the work place are labelled and that MSDSs are obtained or prepared by the employer. Further, an employer must ensure that a material is not used at all unless the requirements concerning labels, material safety data sheets and worker training have been met. All would have to be met before the material could be used in the work place.

Section 22e provides for an exemption from disclosure requirements for confidential business information validated by a board. In addition, confidential business information is exempt from disclosure from the time a claim is filed until the claim is finally determined. Our government would have the power to accept an agency established by the federal government to validate confidential business information. Of important note, however, is the fact that the bill also provides for disclosure of confidential business information so that patients can be treated in medical emergencies.

The proposed section 22g provides that an employer shall ensure that a worker exposed, or likely to be exposed, to a hazardous physical agent, receives instruction and training. The instruction and training are to be developed in consultation with the joint health and safety committee and they are to be reviewed at least once a year.

Section 22f that is now proposed in Bill 79 provides that information is to be available to workers who are likely to be exposed to a hazardous physical agent such as lasers or noise. It requires that this information be furnished to the joint health and safety committee or to the worker representative, as the case may be. In addition, a notice must be posted identifying and warning of the hazardous physical agent in that part of the work place in which the thing is used or operated.

The proposed clause 22a(2)(b) requires an inventory of hazardous materials to be prepared in consultation with the workers, to be maintained in the work place and to be made available to all workers in the work place.

I have been having some discussions with my colleagues in the other two parties and I want to indicate, in anticipation of some of the comments they will make, and to the House in general, that we intend to move amendments to section 22c to strengthen the community right-to-know provisions. Employers will be required to furnish inventories automatically to medical officers of health and fire departments in their localities when prescribed by the regulations. This will

allow and ought to allow for an orderly phase-in of these provisions.

1520

These amendments that we will come forward with will be in addition to the provisions in the existing section 22c of the bill. These existing provisions provide that the inventory and the material safety data sheets are to be made available to the local MOHs and to the local fire departments upon request. This means that members of the public may request a copy of the inventory and of the material safety data sheets through the local medical officer of health, whether the inventory has been automatically filed or not.

In addition, the amendments I will be introducing will protect the confidentiality of those requesting information from medical officers of health. The bill also empowers the government to phase in the mandatory reporting of inventories to the Ministry of Labour. This constitutes a change from the original bill, and I want to indicate that very clearly. I know my friends the critics for the other two parties understand this, but I want the House to understand it is a change from the original bill, which required the immediate filing with the provincial government of all inventories.

Quite frankly, we have made the modification because we have concluded that phased-in reporting to the province itself will make for a more orderly flow of information and therefore a more practical and workable system, one in which the government will have the flexibility to set priorities and address the high-risk areas first.

Finally, the bill provides for its measures to come into force on a date to be proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor. This will ensure that the legislation to implement the national right-to-know scheme, the work place hazardous materials information system scheme, comes into force on the same day all across this country.

As I indicated at the outset of the debate, the right to know about hazardous materials in the work place in clear and contemporary ways is basic to prevention of work place illness and injury. I believe the measure that is now before the House for second reading provides for such a right in a most progressive and constructive way and I hope this assembly will permit its speedy passage.

Mr. Martel: I might indicate that the member for Lambton (Mr. D. W. Smith) and I have agreed to reverse positions and I am going to lead off.

It would have been really decent for the Minister of Labour to have indicated as we debated this, and he had his opportunity—but then he is gracious, as ever—that as late as last Thursday, until he received copies of my amendments, his bill was not going to make it compulsory for people to report. He is now prepared to move some amendments. We are still discussing those amendments as to precisely what they will say, but as late as last Thursday and on the weekend when I spoke to some of his staff and for two hours this morning when we went over amendments that we could work out, he had no intention of having that mandatory aspect in the bill.

I am glad he has come on side at this late moment but it is interesting that he would not indicate what prompted him—let us put it that way—to change his own bill, which was introduced only last week, because it certainly was not their intention to do so.

I have to indicate that it is my intention to dwell on this legislation at some length because of some serious problems. The WHMIS bill of course, as the minister knows, is going to provide for chemical, biological and hazardous physical agents in the work place and that is a step forward. However, that has not come about because people are really concerned about workers' rights; it really has not. It has come about because of cost.

The fact that people die in the work place every day, one every working day of the year in this province, and that it is estimated that 6,000 people are losing their lives annually in Ontario alone due to stress or carcinogens according to Dr. Yassi, or that 3,600 die in Canada annually from cancer, is not what has prompted this particular piece of legislation.

Let us see what is happening in Canada. "In Canada, more working days are lost through accidents and illnesses than through industrial disputes." Can the members imagine that? "Findings of a federal socioeconomic impact analysis completed in 1985 on the use of hazardous materials in the work place estimated the social costs due to exposure as a result of their use in 1984 to be about \$600 million." That kind of jolts people into wanting to do something. "These costs represent approximately 31 per cent of all payments made by the workmen's compensation boards in Canada, although only a small portion of the \$600 million was actually compensated by the boards. These costs include injuries, illnesses, fatalities, cancer-related diseases and fires." It is interesting, though, that the majority

of cancer cases are not compensated yet, because we cannot prove—that is the theory—that they are caused by exposure to industrial toxins.

Last week in this Legislature, we had the whole matter of the gold miners. We are in this dilemma that 600 or 700 people have died. We know they have died because of something in the work place, something that may be called dustiness, but in fact we have not been able to attribute the actual cause. We know the general population is not dying from those causes; therefore, it must be something in the work place. How are we going to compensate? We have now brought it down to the fact that we might compensate 90. Is that not wonderful? I am not sure how you pick the 90. That is for lung disease. Radon daughters in Elliot Lake are what they are compensating for, but in the gold mines radon daughters are not given much credibility as one of the factors. It seems illogical.

Gold miners have a much higher incidence of stomach cancer. We do not know why and we have to try to prove what is causing this. The point I am trying to make, though, is that these people are not compensated. They are not in these statistics.

As Weiler said, I guess in his second report, the costs for industrial diseases will in fact eventually exceed compensable accidents. That is worrisome, because we have known many of the causes of industrial diseases for years. For example, we knew that cancer would be caused from exposure to uranium. The first case was brought to light in 1919 in Czechoslovakia. We went our merry way for the next number of years, until right now in Elliot Lake there are approximately three miners dying from cancer per month.

It is overwhelming but we really have not done much with this. Really, the work place hazardous materials information system is a labelling process. We are going to label things and we are going to know they are a danger. That is some advance because I recall questioning this minister about Falconbridge and the fact that it brought in uranium that was involved with nickel. The workers were not warned that they were working with uranium. Falconbridge wanted to make its money on extracting the nickel from that particular material.

"The United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration has indicated that approximately 25 million workers—about one in four in the American labour force—are exposed to one or more chemical hazards. The same situation likely exists in the Canadian context. In 1985,

there were an estimated 575,000 existing chemical products in the US and hundreds of new ones being introduced annually. This poses a very severe problem for workers."

1530

I have always taken the position that what in fact you have to do is to pre-market-test anything that comes on to the market, but you cannot convince governments to protect people. Industry goes crazy when you say to pre-market-test stuff. They go absolutely bananas. Look at Thalidomide, and what we have done to so many youngsters. We are not prepared to say that if you want to put something on the market, it has to be safe and the onus is on the producer to make it safe. We will not do that. We do not have the courage. You hear all the excuses. "It is going to hurt our industry." So what? Do we hurt people or do we make them pre-market-test it if they want to sell it? Of course, I take the latter view. My free enterprise friends say: "It is okay. Poison them. When you kill enough of them, we will do something to regulate it."

One only has to look at asbestos. One only has to look at uranium. We knew uranium was going to kill people. One only has to look at the old sintering plant. One only has to look at Bendix in the minister's own riding. But to talk about pre-market-testing drives the free enterprisers absolutely crazy. I do not know why. You have to drive safely in this country. Theoretically, you are not allowed to go out and kill someone. But you can put something on the market and if it kills someone, so what? Too bad for those who got killed or died from it.

There is something seriously wrong with that whole concept, to my way of thinking at least. I am told that I am not very progressive, that we cannot do that to industry. I say to industry: "So what? If you want to sell it, make sure it is safe."

Let me continue: "Exposure to hazardous materials may cause or contribute to many serious health effects, such as heart ailments, kidney and lung damage, sterility, cancer, burns, rashes. Some hazardous materials may also be safety hazards and have the potential to cause fires and explosions and other serious accidents."

That is the background against which we bring in a WHMIS bill, a bill that will label material so workers know or will get data sheets that will tell us of the possible dangers. I am going to come back to this theme in a few moments because even that is a farce. We do not test anything. Nothing we have on the market has been adequately tested to this time; there are 58,000 or 60,000 we are looking at.

I want to tell members the reason I have some difficulty with this. We bring in an act. Of course, I read the minister's statement last week or the week before when he introduced the bill. You would think he had invented WHMIS. Today, he talks about amendments that he did not intend to move. He does not say who was pushing him. He does not say that he was going to let the bill go without making it mandatory and so on. He has changed. Is that not strange? He shakes his head. He will have his opportunity. I listened carefully to him.

I want to tell members what is wrong. I want to quote a document I got. When we raised this document in the House, the minister chose to ignore responding to it. It is his own advisory council, a group appointed by him to give him advice as to what he should be doing with respect to occupational health and safety. His own advisory council said, "The promise of an improvement in the future wellbeing of workers implied in the royal commission has, for the most part, gone unfulfilled."

I can be accused of being biased, and I am, I have never shrugged away from that; but if I were told by my own advisory council, made up of people from industry, the university community and labour, that Bill 79 has not worked and is not doing what it is supposed to do unless we change the way Bill 79 works, then these amendments will not be worth a row of beans.

That is one of the reasons I moved the eight amendments that I did; I gave them to the minister last Thursday as prescribed under the rules, and today he comes back and is making a change. He does not say why. It is the age of enlightenment, I guess. Somebody on his staff said to him, I am sure, "Bill, I think you should move these." It has nothing to do with the amendments I presented to him. I am sure the minister was going to do it all on his own, and if you believe that then I have a bridge I want to sell you after.

The advisory council went on to say the following: "Ministry of Labour inspectors write thousands of orders every year to correct violations of the act and regulations. This apparent lack of measurable progress at the shop floor is evident also in the result of council surveys of joint health and safety committees." I want the members to keep tab of that, because I am going to tell members why the minister has to change the act.

At this point I will just refer to the fact that when the survey was done for this advisory council, of 3,000 companies surveyed the

Ministry of Labour did not know that fully 1,500 had toxic substances in the work place. The Ministry of Labour did not know that one half of the places were using toxic substances.

His bill did not read clearly. He says: "I did not understand it. Certainly, my staff did not understand it." I want to tell the members that the Metropolitan Toronto people examining this bill did not understand it. I am going to quote from the bill and maybe the members will be able to understand my dilemma; perhaps they can tell me what this means.

"22c(1) A copy of the most recent version of the inventory and of every unexpired material safety data sheet required by this part in respect of hazardous materials in a work place shall be...(c) furnished by the employer to the medical officer of health of the health unit in which the work place is located upon the request of the medical officer of health."

What does that mean? Does that mean it is compulsory to report? I see my friend shaking his head. Certainly it does not, and I agree with him and he agrees with me, and my amendments address that. It says you have to report. It has to be compulsory to report; otherwise you will never know you have a survey that says of 3,000 companies surveyed, the Ministry of Labour did not even know that in 1,500 of them there were toxic substances.

It goes on to say the same for the fire department; and finally, shall be "filed with a director." I simply say that the survey indicated these places were not reporting and the Minister of Labour did not know. I read that section of the act and it certainly does not read to me as though it is compulsory to report. If that is what the minister meant, I will accept his word, but that is not what it reads, and I think there is some agreement on that.

The Minister of Labour gets up today and attempts to create the illusion that the whiz kid from Windsor, himself, none other, saw the problem and he is going to fix it up by his statement today. He would not say, "Look, somebody else discovered it." He does not have to name me; I could not care less. On reflection, he could have said, "Concern has been raised by other people about what was not clear and we want to clarify it;" but not the minister.

I have some difficulty, and I quote this particular document because the minister's own advisory council is really upset. Listen to what else it says:

"The apparent lack of measurable progress at the shop floor has been a growing source of

frustration to workers and their representatives. Considerable frustration has been experienced by both labour and management in trying to obtain, from the Ministry of Labour, information and interpretation. Concern has been expressed at the general lack of training of work place parties. Frustration with the ministry has now escalated to a point where a polarized atmosphere pervades the occupational health and safety scene just as it did in the period leading up to the formulation of the Ham royal commission."

1540

The council goes on to say:

"One obvious manifestation of this polarization has been the withdrawal of organized labour from the formal standard-setting process and the apparent lack of any progress on the part of the ministry to resolving this impasse. Other illustrations of discontent and dissatisfaction include the allegations contained in the Ontario Public Service Employees Union brief, on behalf of the ministry inspectors concerned, expressed about the lack of meaningful consultation with all the stakeholders and the support given to the private member's bill, Bill 149, in the Legislature." That happens to be my bill.

There is a problem. The minister can make these amendments to Bill 79 if he wants, but if he does not clear up the other problems with respect to Bill 79, then he can add amendments till hell freezes over and he is not going to protect another worker one tittle more. He really is not.

A friend of mine once said the right to know about hazardous chemicals, biological agents and hazardous physical agents is essential for workers to act to protect themselves, and that is a true statement. Knowledge, however, in and of itself, does not provide protection. Think about that. You can have the knowledge that that is a hazardous substance, but if you do not have the power to protect yourself, what good is it? That is what Bill 79 does not do for the workers. Knowledge in and of itself does not provide protection.

As Bob Sass, the former Deputy Minister of Labour in Saskatchewan, has said: "Knowledge is not power. Power is power." We know in this province who has power, and it is not workers. It is interesting that it is workers who die. I do not know how many owners got killed last year in the work place. I know a worker a day died in the province. I do not know how many owners died. I know there were 442,000 accidents. I wonder how many of them were owners. How many of them were on the board of directors? How many were the managers and how many were the

workers? Interestingly enough, who has all the power? Not the workers; they have none.

My friend puts his eyes up in the air. I want to tell him he does not understand Bill 79. He does not, because the final power in Bill 79 rests totally and completely with management. If he does not believe me, I will give him a lesson in the bill.

Mr. Fontaine: They don't work in the mill.

Mr. Martel: Well the mill; who gets hurt in the mill? I must say to my friend I also worked in the mines. I worked on the railroad. I know what it is like there. I know what protection I had.

Mr. Fontaine: Go back. It has changed.

Mr. Martel: It has not changed. Tell me why there were 442,000 accidents last year.

Mr. Fontaine: It is not all the fault of the companies, either.

Mr. Martel: I do not suggest that for a moment. What I am suggesting is that they share power in the work place equitably. I hope my friend would agree with that much, because we have to get accidents and illnesses down. We have to get rid of some of these ideas that it is managerial right only. We have to work to reduce accidents. It is the only solution. I agree with him. It is too bad the government would not, because the Minister of Labour's amendments leave all the power with management. His proposed amendments in his white paper change nothing of the power structure, absolutely nothing. That is what is wrong.

I say to my friend that I agree with him. We have to get those on; we have to stop those accidents. We do not need to be killing people. There are going to be accidents that are accidental, but there are many we could avoid and we have to work to that. If that means taking a little power away and sharing it equally, my friend and I are on the same track. We are on the same track, but we do not have it yet.

We can have this new information coming into the work place, but if workers have no power—equal power, shared power—then it does not matter, if they cannot protect themselves. This step has taken five years. Now we have labelling and now we have data sheets, but we still do not have power. The act has been in power for 10 years. It is time it was changed. The proposed amendments will not do it.

It is interesting to note that this was an agreement too among labour, management and government. It was tough slugging. It involved the provincial, federal and territorial governments. Do members know who was not involved

in the bill presented to the House last week? Labour. The Minister of Labour introduced the bill, and after the bill was introduced a copy was sent to labour.

We had all the negotiations between management, labour, the federal government, the provincial government and the territories, and we got a WHMIS agreement. We got a bill drafted—the second copy, by the way. Labour was not involved at all. I do not know whether management was involved. I would have hoped labour would have been involved, and I would have hoped that management would have been involved, but they were not.

That is consultation? Do members see why the minister's advisory council has put this tough memorandum, three pages, to the minister? He ignores them. They are so frustrated that they have written what is the toughest document I have ever seen against the minister, by his own advisory council. Its members are just there filling space. The minister calls on them when he feels like it for 30 seconds or 30 minutes and then summarily dismisses them. That is why they wrote that report, by the way.

Now we have the WHMIS agreement and we have the legislation in the Legislature. Labour was not involved. I do not know whether management was involved; I suspect it was not. If it had been, the hassle we are going to go through this afternoon because we do not understand the bill—labour did not understand the bill and the Metropolitan Toronto council did not understand the bill—would have been worked out before we brought it in here. But no, this minister and his ministry, which has been in trouble over occupational health for years, continues to persist.

Let me tell members another interesting thing. I introduced Bill 99 on January 14, 1986. In that bill, I put in the right to know for the community for a very definite reason. Lead or toxic substances carried in air do not understand the fence that is in their way. Those materials go beyond the boundaries of a plant.

My friend from Hearst, the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine), knows that in a mill community it is the smell that goes a long distance. Nothing stops it. There is no barrier there. That is why the community should have a right to know: so people who live adjacent to a plant, like the lead plant in Toronto that has caused such hardship, can go to the medical officer of health and ask.

The Minister of Labour did not want that in his bill originally. The day I introduced my legisla-

tion, the press raised with the minister the right to know in the community. Members of the press might not be telling the truth, but they came back to me and said: "Bill Wrye does not want it. We got it straight from Bill Wrye, not one of his officials, that he does not intend to include in his bill the community right to know."

I will never know whether that is factual or not. All I know is what the press told me was the minister's response the day my bill was introduced. He might have been tired from the night before, or something like that, or his eye might have been bothering him and he did not understand what they were asking him, but I know what they told me after they spoke to him. He said he was not going to include the community right to know.

Like the amendments today that he has so generously indicated to this House he was going to move on his own, without any prompting, without any help, he chose to indicate that he was not going to do it. That is what the Toronto Star and a number of other newspapers told me. People get into trouble out in the scrum. They say things out there, and darned if those reporters do not put them on tape or something like that and run back and talk to us about it and say, "Do you want to comment on what the minister said?" In fact, that is what transpired.

1550

Anyway, the minister, with his usual insight and perspicacity, included it. I am glad it is there. Whether you had to struggle or rattle him to the ground to do it, it is there, and that is a move forward. However, I worry about this minister, because he then introduced Bill 101. His first bill was much tougher than his second one. The minister shakes his head. Then it was much clearer. All people beyond the ministry must be mixed up on Bill 79—

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Just you.

Mr. Martel: Just me? It must have included Metropolitan Toronto. It must have included Linda Jolley, the representative of the Ontario Federation of Labour. The minister might want to trade comments with her some time because she is the most knowledgeable person in this province on occupational health. She must have misunderstood it as well. I spent part of yesterday afternoon with her, and she misunderstood it. Everybody misunderstood except the Minister of Labour.

That is like McKenzie and Laskin. Everybody said there is something wrong with the Ministry of Labour and what is going on there, except the little band of hooligans the minister hired and

paid \$483,000 to do a report, a report which exonerated management. If you pay somebody \$483,000 you are going to get the type of report you want, particularly if it is done in camera and you cannot talk to anybody or cross-examine anybody. You have to take his word for it.

In fact, it is interesting: McKenzie and Laskin kicked the hell out of the staff of the Ministry of Labour, particularly those darned inspectors and me and my friends in the trade union movement. It is an insidious plot; that is what it is. "This is a plot for workers to get control of the means of production in the province of Ontario." One Mr. McKenzie said that. "It is a bit of subversion on their part to gain control of the means of production in the province using occupational health and safety."

McKenzie must get up in the middle of the night and look under his bed to see whether there is a worker there trying to subvert the system. I bet that fellow has nightmares every night and has to get up. He sets the alarm clock, I am told, just to make sure he gets up every morning at 3 a.m. to look under the bed to see there is somebody there who is fomenting a plot against industry in this province.

Mr. Philip: The Frank Drea of labour.

Mr. Martel: Yes. The guy is mad. McKenzie and Laskin and the Minister of Labour are the only ones who believe there is nothing wrong or amiss out in the province with respect to Bill 79. Of course, none of us understood Bill 79—we have just heard him say it—so he introduces this thing last week.

When he introduced Bill 79, like our friend who was the Minister of Community and Social Services for a couple of months, the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor) after Bill 101, the only thing I am convinced of, I say to the minister with the greatest of respect, is that he must have been mugged in the halls of power when he brought Bill 79 back, because it is not as strong or as clear—

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: The minister says it is, but he is already going to move three or four amendments himself one week later. Spare me.

Let us go on. I say to the minister, what use is a right to know if there is nothing to know? While the Ministry of Labour had to agree that WHMIS did not involve testing in any way, it is clear that testing of the work place materials is essential to giving any meaning to the right to know. In the United States, in a study entitled Toxicity Testing: Strategies to Determine Needs and Priorities, almost 80 per cent of 48,000 chemi-

cals found in our work places had no toxicological information available. In other words, they had never been tested. For the other 20 per cent, the information was judged to be partial or minimal at best.

Not one work place chemical was judged to have been completely and properly tested. The minister can tell me about labelling all this stuff and putting on a danger sign, but we have not tested and we do not test what we are putting into the work place, and we are exposing people to it. Can anyone tell me how stupid that really is?

Think back to thalidomide, just as one drug, and what it did to scores of children. Imagine the same thing occurring with the chemicals we put in the work place. We put them in and we do not even know the effects. We have no idea what they are going to do, but we put them in.

When we stack up the bodies—and by the way, in this business, of course, for those of you who do not follow it very carefully, it takes many of these substances 20 or 30 years to show themselves. My friend the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) knows that in the old sintering plants there were many people he knows in his community who died from cancer, I guess of the nasal passage.

Mr. Haggerty: The first one.

Mr. Martel: The first one was there, yes, because they did not know.

We can test all these things or we can say you can put a label on it, but if you do not test it before you introduce it, what can you expect? A body count somewhere, a body count as in Elliot Lake. When we beat our breasts about this, without testing I wonder how much change it is really going to cause in the work place.

I want to tell you, the day will come when we have governments that have enough courage, and maybe they will screw up enough courage some day to say, "We will pre-market-test anything, we will have mandatory testing of all those substances that are currently in the work place, and we will establish safe limits of exposure." It is going to take a government with some guts. I do not see many of those around yet.

I can recall raising this during estimates three, four, five years ago. The hostility when I said we had to pre-market-test something was quite unbelievable. They think I am out of my tree or I am up in a tree, I am not sure which. They think I am wrong when I say, "You have to test stuff before you allow it to be used on people." Surely we are smart enough to say: "In this day and age, we are no longer guinea pigs. We have a right to

know that what we work with is not going to kill us."

I was at a conference in Windsor about a year ago where they had this great button. All you could see was the soles of two feet, and the badge said, "I came here to work, not to die."

Until we establish limits and test those products, we are going to continue to count the bodies, despite the work place hazardous materials information system.

As I say, we have that problem. Of course, what concerns me about the amendments is the failure of the Ministry of Labour in the past 10 years—I do not blame it all on this minister—to make Bill 79 work effectively. There is no such thing as self-compliance in Bill 79. The self-compliance is by those companies that have the foresight and integrity to want it.

As Inco said at the hearings I held, it is only if upper management wants to make it work that Bill 79 can work. Otherwise, it will never work. That is Inco; pretty positive. They have reduced their accident rate in 10 years, by the way, from 13.6 per hundred to 1.6 per hundred. That is because upper management said, "It is going to work." It is only if upper management says it is going to work. I am tired of waiting. I am tired of waiting for all of those other birds in the province to develop a bit of sense. The enforcing of Bill 79 is a joke. The lack of worker power is a bigger joke.

1600

I talked to an inspector within the last couple of weeks. He had 1,400 work places to investigate. Can you imagine? If he did one every working day of the year, it would take him five years to get around and to do it properly, if he spent only one day in each plant. The Minister of Labour will not change it. His willy-nilly little bill is going to leave the existing system in place. Self-compliance—they are going to change. I do not know why in hell he thinks they are going to change or what is going to make them change. He says, "We are going to increase the fines to \$250,000." They are \$25,000 in the old bill and the average fine last year was \$2,000. The minister shakes his head.

Let us argue over a few bucks—up to what, \$3,000? Whoop-de-do. I look at five deaths. The total fines were \$17,500 in those five deaths where there were convictions. That is an average of something like \$3,400 per death. Life is pretty cheap at \$3,400. Some of the lawyers call this a piece of social legislation. They do not even see it in its proper perspective. They call it social legislation.

These amendments, even today, will not succeed unless we make Bill 79 more effective. I want to tell the members, as I said earlier, the only people who believe it is working are the Minister of Labour and McKenzie-Laskin. Of course, they were paid to believe it was working. It is interesting, McKenzie-Laskin, in 750 pages, were critical of management in one sentence. I think I found one sentence in 750 pages. The rest said trade unionists were at fault, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and those of us, like myself, who are just radical. Management got off scot-free, except for one comment; yet management has total power under the act. What a wonderful document. You can hitch your star to it—and ride on—and have more self-compliance.

I do not know what the advisory council is talking about. They must be crazy. There is a choice. Either he should fire all of them or resign. One must be wrong. It is either the advisory council that is all wrong or it is McKenzie-Laskin and the minister. I want to tell the members, the Provincial Auditor has been very critical. The minister shakes his head and says, "No." Shall I send someone to go upstairs to get my copy so I can read the members the auditor's comments? He was very critical. OPSEU was critical. The trade union movement was critical. The Ontario Law Reform Commission was critical. The minister's own advisory council has been extremely critical.

Until we recognize there is a problem and are prepared to admit it—and as I said, I do not blame this minister entirely. He inherited a mess. However, if he is going to say the same situation should prevail as is requested by McKenzie-Laskin, that self-compliance is the solution, we are dead. I know the minister does not like Bill 149. I know he has been all over the province—people tell me, I get phone calls: "The minister was here. He does not want your bill. He thinks it is terrible. It is going to give the workers power and we do not want the workers to have power." Heaven forbid that they should be able to protect themselves. Hell's bells. Oh, yes, they can have a group refusal. The fact that they might get fired for their group refusal—so what? What is a job? Except if you are with a union—and it is interesting; the trade union movement will not break on this one; they are not going to crack on this one, I tell my friend the minister.

Some of the problems, as I have said, are the joint health and safety committee and the internal responsibility system. It is a mess. What did the survey say about the joint health and safety committee? Thirty-five per cent of the companies

appointed—appointed—the worker representatives. He tells me we want more of the same. The survey done for the advisory council said 35 per cent of the companies in fact appointed the worker representatives.

Is that not wonderful? Ten years after the act, they appointed. It was contrary to the law, but 35 per cent did the appointing. The whole thing is a mess. There is a whole series, 35 or 40 per cent, in which the company provides all the people who are going to take notes and the person in charge of the meeting is management.

Are we ever going to get protection for the workers with these amendments today? All of that is contrary to the law and we have a minister who says: "We have got to have more of the same, and my amendments will ensure we have more of the same. We will increase the fine to \$250,000."

But when you have one tenth of one per cent of a chance of going to court—that is where it is in this province; one tenth of one per cent of those people in violation have ended up in court; and you get 50, 60 or 70 convictions—would you take a chance of paying \$2,000 and maybe a fine or, let us say, \$100,000 to put in a new ventilation system? It is pretty simple: take a chance. Take a chance: they are just dumb workers.

On unionized, and more particularly nonunionized plants, it is interesting. Nonunionized plants are the ones that have the biggest number of problems, but the inspectors go to—guess which ones?—the unionized. The nonunionized people have no protection at all. I think some of them should smarten up and get a union, quite frankly; it would do them a lot of good; but they do not in some cases.

Designated substances: my oh my, I am going to come to that right now. I can hardly contain myself. I will come back to designated substances.

But failure of the Ministry of Labour to act, all of these and the tens of thousands of orders are what make Bill 79 ineffective. If you have no union you have no health and safety.

I addressed the Canadian Union of Public Employees last week. That is a pretty powerful union, and its biggest problem is the committee system and the interference management runs in the committee system, that is pretty clear; but unless the minister is going to do something on that, we have problems.

I want to get to something the minister is going to appreciate. This act says we are going to educate—whoop-de-do, we are going to educate the workers. Can members imagine how we are

going to educate the workers when in fact there are all kinds of companies which do not even have a copy of the act on the floor? Who is going to make sure the workers are being educated? Who is going to make sure companies are complying? I do not know. Will those 241 inspectors?

Do members realize there are more conservation officers in this province than there are health and safety inspectors? Do they realize there are at least 20,000 police patrolling the highways, and there are fewer accidents on the highways than there are in the work place? There are probably 20,000 police in this province doing their job—and doing it well; I am not being critical—but there are 241 inspectors for the whole province.

There are more conservation officers than there are health and safety inspectors and we wonder why one worker is killed every working day in the year and we wonder why there were 442,000 accidents last year. I want to tell members, it is crazy. So we have this right to know. I want to know who is going to protect the workers by ensuring they are educated, because we have not even been able to ensure there were committees in the work place.

Let me go on. The right to know must be combined with regulations that protect all workers who may be exposed and not just some workers. That is what is going to happen under this act: only some workers will be protected. Others are not quite as susceptible: maybe their stamina is greater, maybe their resilience or their resistance is greater, but some will be protected and some will not be protected.

That is like Bill 79, is it not? Some workers have a right to have a committee. If you number less than 20, why, you can die and nobody is going to worry about it. You cannot have a committee in every work place. Some are going to get protection and others are not. There is something wrong with that. Surely everybody is entitled to protection. Not in this province.

1610

As well, we need enforcement of those regulations. The ministry record, as exposed in the joint committee survey, indicates little real commitment to such enforcement. Approximately 34 per cent of work places with designated substances had not carried out an assessment or implemented a control program. Only 10 or 11 substances are designated. By the act, if you have a designated substance, and some of those regulations have been in effect for seven or eight years, you are supposed to have an assessment of

the designated substance, whether it is asbestos, isocyanates or so on.

As of this date, 34 per cent have not had an assessment and do not have a control program in effect for the nine or 10 designated substances. Do members wonder why I worry about education? If, with nine or 10 substances, 34 per cent of the companies have not done an assessment yet, what are we going to do when all of a sudden we introduce a regulation into the work place that says we are going to label everything? What is it going to mean to them unless we have an assurance they are going to be educated? That is a real worry.

We are going to do it with a staff of 241. If the minister had the money to hire another 1,000, it would not make that much difference. I am not questioning their integrity. I am just saying it would not do it. It could not. There are not enough. There is not enough money. That is why you have to give workers some say. Educate them and they can go in and protect themselves, provided they are protected by law. I have never understood the resistance to surrendering this power.

Workers make profit for companies; all kinds of it. They do not need somebody standing over them night and day. They make all kinds of profit for companies. They are reliable to make profits but they are not reliable to protect themselves. Somehow, they are going to become scurrilous, you name it, when it comes to protecting their health and safety. I say to the minister that it does not add up.

Let me tell the members some other things. Let me quote the regulations. I am using the isocyanate one. "Every employer to whom this regulation applies shall cause an assessment to be made in writing of the exposure or likelihood of exposure in the work place of a worker to the inhalation of isocyanates or contact with isocyanates." What is it, two or three inspectors who have been sensitized to isocyanates because the ministry could not protect even them?

It also says, "In causing the assessment to be made, the employer shall consult thereon with the joint health and safety committee and the committee may make recommendations with respect to the assessment," and eventually to the program. That is not happening. I know it and the minister knows it. If at all possible, unions are not involved in the assessment or in developing the control program. I cannot believe we think some simplistic solution, a few more additions to the act, is going to provide the ministry with the

wherewithal to do what we all hope it is going to do.

I am going to give the members a few examples, if I might, about the toxic substances. We got involved in Perley Hospital two years ago. We were there and we said, "This company is installing new telephones and the ceiling is full of asbestos while the patients are lying in bed." The inspector would not write a regulation because the regulations were in order. The regulation was coming in only 13 days later. He had a section of the act he could have used, knowing it was hazardous. There is a section of the act that calls for that. He did nothing, so the patients continued to lie in their beds. By the way, they knew asbestos was there. I think Morin was the inspector. He could have written an order, but he did not.

Asbestos at the London courthouse: I want to tell members that for six years they knew that was there. In fact, I am told the minister has now laid charges, except that, as with our friend who worked for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and drowned and the case was thrown out of court, I also am told with respect to asbestos at the courthouse that the statute of limitations, the time limit, has passed so that when it goes to the court the judge will throw it out. It took us months of agitating in this House on asbestos when everybody knew—the minister shakes his head. It is interesting.

We have some more. I have some new ones. The minister should just stay around and hang on to his hat.

De Havilland—what a mess. There were orders coming out his ears. Where was the minister? You would think the minister and his staff were nonexistent.

"In the summer of 1986, because of the publicity, there was a major government cleanup at de Havilland." It did not occur before the bad publicity. "Workers reported unusual cancers, temporary blindness, severe swelling of the eyes, memory loss, dizziness, skin rash, open sores, loss of skin pigmentation, airway constriction and asthma." The Ministry of Labour failed to enforce isocyanate regulations. Finally, it took a work stoppage by the workers.

You have to understand there is a regulation for isocyanates. They are supposed to have assessments and control programs, devised jointly between the workers and the company. Why did it not happen? If somebody could tell me that—

Let us go on. Ceilcot of Canada: The company uses silica and styrene. It was an unregistered

company that had inadequate ventilation. A complaint was made by the business rep of the sheet metal workers to the Ministry of Labour, asking for an inspection, which occurred in July 1986. The ministry ordered ventilation and the drawings had to be sent to the ministry by August 10, 1986. This company complied with that order but the ministry did not bother to look at the drawings until pressed by the union. The ministry did not issue orders for the interim protection of respirators until the ventilation was in place. That did not happen until August 1986 and then management just put out a memo, with no instructions or enforcement. This illustrates how inadequate the system is in protecting workers.

Robert Hunt Corp.: The problems here were carbon monoxide, diesel fumes, fumes from the wood treatment, poor ventilation, and finally, fumes from the floor sealant. These workers tried for years to have proper testing done, proper ventilation provided and data sheets provided. This only came through strong union support, while all along the workers took abuse from management. We reported that two years ago. If it had not been for one individual, nothing would have happened. They have harassed that man. They have done everything. They have relocated his work. The ministry stood idly by, with its finger in its ear and its brain in neutral.

Lake Ontario Steel Co. Ltd., Oshawa: This company uses silica and lead. They were ordered by the ministry to do an assessment in May 1986 with a compliance date of June 13, 1986. By January 16, 1987, the order was reissued. This is the minister who says we do not reissue orders, but it was reissued. I raised this matter in the Legislature in February 1987. By March 1987, only a preliminary assessment had been done.

All that time, the workers were exposed to these substances. So much for designated substances and assessments and control programs worked out between the workers and management. Management does not want to work with the workers, and someday, somebody in the Ministry of Labour is going to realize it. As I have said, it is strange that workers can go out and make all kinds of profit by the sweat of their brow for employers, but when it comes time to protect their own health, no, they become irresponsible citizens.

I am talking about designated substances. My friend is getting a little antsy over there, I can see, but these are all problems—

Hon. Mr. Wrye: What about Bill 79?

Mr. Martel: Might I just say that Bill 79 is really some amendments to what? It is going to fit into what? They are going to fit into what piece of legislation? Is the minister prepared to tell me where it is going to fit in the scheme of things? Is it going to fit into the occupational health bill somewhere?

1620

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Speak to the amendments.

Mr. Martel: We are talking about designated substances. We are talking about what happens. The minister is required to enforce only those nine or 10 designated substances and he is not doing it. According to the survey done for the advisory council, 34 per cent of the companies have not carried out an assessment or implemented a control program. Are they lying?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: We are enforcing the act.

Mr. Martel: Then why do 34 per cent of the companies not have an assessment and why do they not have a control program in place? The minister might tell me that some time.

I could go on with Waferboard. I could go on with Brampton Brick. It just came to us on June 8. This company of approximately 80 workers operates a pit and screening plant that falls under the mining health and safety branch and a brick plant that falls under the industrial health and safety branch of the Ministry of Labour. This dual responsibility of MOL causes confusion and has added to the problems of dealing with this company. The plant has been in operation for a number of years and it has an exhaust system with a baghouse to control silica dust, a designated substance, I believe. Apparently, maintaining this exhaust system was too troublesome, so it was abandoned by the company, which means the workers were and are exposed to silica dust.

Silica was designated as a hazardous substance in 1983 and we do not have anything there yet. The Ministry of Labour was aware of the silica exposure for a number of years and ordered an air sampling in 1985. Air samples showed no exposure above acceptable levels in 1985. Engineering controls were recommended. The company built a booth for grinding only, because the company had planned to build a new plant. In 1987, a new air sampling was ordered by MOL and results showed 11 of 12 workers were exposed to silica levels above the standard.

I just heard the minister say, "We are enforcing it."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Who wrote the orders?

Mr. Martel: Who had to complain? Who had to bring the workers in? Who had to go to the Ministry of Labour?

Let me continue. After MOL air sampling, workers were instructed by memo to wear respirators. They were not trained or given proper instruction. That is what I talk about. How is the minister going to educate them? With 48,000 substances, the minister tells me he is going to educate them under the act. He cannot even enforce the regulations with only 10 or 11 and somehow, without giving workers any power, this is going to protect them. Whoop-de-do. If you believe that, you still believe in the tooth fairy. You should put a tooth under your pillow tonight and if you cannot get one, then go down to some corner store where I am sure they sell them in some amusement store. You get your hanky, wrap it all up and put it under the pillow. Maybe somebody will leave you a quarter. The whole thing going on is obscene.

The minister's study—

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Don't be silly.

Mr. Martel: I am glad. I really have the minister where he is going to have to listen because there are other things going on.

There was a study done for the advisory committee. The workers of 3,000 companies were sampled—get that number—and the Minister of Labour did not know there were toxic substances in 1,500 of them; 50 per cent. The survey was done by an independent group. It was not done by me. Somebody would have said I cooked the books. I had nothing to do with it. Yet in one half of the companies, the Ministry of Labour did not know they had toxic substances. That is one half of 3,000.

The minister wants me to have faith. He says: "Just keep the faith and things will change. Things will get better." I have some difficulty.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: What is your conclusion?

Mr. Martel: I am coming to my conclusion. If I were given the authority to make one change under the act, it would be that workers have power to force change in the work place. We would see the accidents and the fatalities go down. Until that occurs, nothing is going to change. We will keep stacking up the bodies and the corpses as we have been doing.

The minister shakes his head. There have been 10 miners killed in northern Ontario this year already; since 1965, 273 miners. Imagine the uproar in this country if that were policemen. That is not for Canada, my friends; that is for Ontario. Since 1965, 273 miners; it looks as though they are in season all the time.

The key flaw in the bill—I wrote this the other day, then I gave my amendments to the minister and he has now changed it—the central inventory was one of the four principles in the bill I presented, Bill 79, and it was also in the minister's. "Each work place will be required to establish and maintain a central inventory of all the potentially hazardous substances or agents that may be or generated on the premises. These inventories will be provided to the Ministry of Labour and"—I have stated—"to the appropriate fire departments and medical officers of health."

The inventories will be available for the information of the workers. They will also assist the government in its various designation activities. The Ministry of Labour needs to have this, so it knows where the designated substances are.

That was not compulsory, at least to some of us who interpreted the act.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Ah, come on.

Mr. Martel: The minister says, "Ah." I do not know why he is introducing amendments then. If it was compulsory, why is he moving amendments today after I pointed out that it did not read well or that nobody could understand it? The minister can say, "Ah," all he wants. Why is he moving amendments? Was it not clear enough?

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: He is, Vince I can send you a copy.

The reason I said it had to be clear and enunciated clearly? If, out of 3,000 companies, 1,500 did not supply that information—why should the minister or the health unit or the fire department have to phone somebody and say, "Hey Joe, tell me what you have over there." We have 3,000 companies and with 1,500 we do not know that they have anything in them. That is the Ministry of Labour. I just tried to give him some power so he would not have to ask them—

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Wrong.

Mr. Martel: —to be kind and submit the material, so that it became mandatory that you submit the material in triplicate: one to the Ministry of Labour, one to the health unit and one to the fire department. The minister is saying no over there again, that it was not the case. I do not know why he is moving amendments, then. I really do not know why he is prepared to move amendments, then.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am just trying to make you happy in your swan song.

Mr. Martel: I would rather be doing a swan song than living in the swamp.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: It has been drained.

Mr. Martel: Has he drained it? He must have got a tile drainage grant because to clear that place out is going to take some doing.

If there is a central registry—as I say, 1,500 places the minister did not know. That must be an embarrassment.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That's wrong.

Mr. Martel: I am not wrong. Wait a minute; I just happen to have the report with me. I will tell the minister another one about designated substances. He has read this bill, I presume.

Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety, Eighth Annual Report, volume 2, says: "In addition to lack of committees in some seven per cent of work places with 20 or more workers, our study found JHSCs do not exist in about 33 per cent of work places with less than 20 workers" that were using designated substances.

But the minister is protecting the workers. I heard him tell me that not 20 minutes ago, not 10 minutes ago. How did this happen? Maybe he wants to tell me. If he wants to tell me how this happens, I am prepared to sit down and he can tell me how he is protecting them. He would never have known. If the committee had not done this survey and paid for it, he would never have known. That is why it has to be mandatory that people report to him. The only way he is ever going to know what is there is if somebody has to submit all the material to him. Obviously, he is prepared to do it because he wants to move some amendments today.

1630

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Read the bill.

Mr. Martel: I read the bill. The minister will have a chance to respond. He might want to tell me why it is he is going to move amendments.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: To help you out in your swan song.

Mr. Martel: Oh, to help me out. He means he wants to help himself because his bill is inadequate.

Let us continue. There are some people who really need protection. I said to my friend the minister the other day that, for example, one of the things that must be in is to protect firefighters. I have talked to firemen over and over again. Their biggest concern is that when they go to fight a fire, they do not know what is where, in what volume and how it is situated. I said to the minister that I was going to move an amendment that says you have to have a floor plan on the outer wall that indicates the amount of the substance and the volume so that workers and

firefighters can look at the wall. They can say: "There is so much of this here and so much of that there. It is separated; the combustible stuff." The minister says he is prepared to put that in regulation.

Mr. Haggerty: Some never get that close to the wall.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That is right. Listen to him.

Mr. Martel: No, but I want to say that many of them will. If you do not, then you take a chance of being killed. The firemen like this idea. You might have the odd explosion, but I ask, is it not better to know that than work in a vacuum?

Mr. Haggerty: Should have it on the entrance coming in.

Mr. Martel: It could be anywhere. I am not hung up on where we do it. I am saying it has to be somewhere where firefighters can look at it so they know how best to attack the problem of fighting that fire. That is their fear. It is the fear they have presented to the Minister of Labour for years. Nobody wants to do anything about it. The right to refuse has been taken away from them. We take away the right to refuse, but at the same time, we are not prepared to put adequate regulations in effect that say to companies, "You have to show where that material is, the volume and whether it is flammable or combustible so that you can take the best precautions necessary to protect your staff."

I am going to move it. If the minister wants to put it in regulations fine, and if he wants to defeat it, it can rest on his head.

Mr. Gillies: He does not have the votes to defeat it.

Mr. Martel: That is good. A central registry must be compulsory so we know what is there and we know what to look for.

I contacted the health units. I contacted some of them last week and I said, "Tell me, can you cope with this?" They said, "No." I said, "Why not?" They said, "We do not have the staff." As the bill now reads, and I want to remind the members of what it says—I do not want to upset the minister because he is going to have a bird over there in a minute. It says, "A copy of the most recent version of the inventory and every unexpired material safety data sheet required by this part in respect of hazardous materials in a work place shall be...furnished by the employer to the medical officer of health of the health unit in which the work place is located upon the request of the medical officer of health."

Does that sound as though it were compulsory or mandatory? You do not understand it either. You see, Billy just over there is telling us that we do not understand it.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Compulsory if requested.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: It is not mandatory. That is the difference between compulsory or not.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: What is the problem with you?

The Deputy Speaker: The member should refer to people by their ridings, and certainly not by nicknames.

Mr. Martel: Anyway, does that ring a bell with the minister that it is mandatory? I phoned the health units. I talked to my friend in Sudbury and I said, "Are you going to be able to make all the phone calls necessary if somebody comes in and says, 'We want to know what company X is using'?" This thing very clearly says "upon the request of the medical officer of health." The medical officer of health is going to have to go out and phone the company in question. The minister, the member for Windsor—

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Sandwich.

Mr. Martel: Sandwich; I want to get it right, I do not want to offend the Speaker this afternoon.

Mr. Gillies: You mean Billy.

Mr. Martel: No, not Billy; I mean the minister, the member for Windsor-Sandwich.

I said to him, "Can you envisage yourself or do your staff have the capacity to make phone calls to companies to get that material?" He said, "No, we do not have enough staff to do what is ordered of us now, but if we have to start phoning companies to get that material, we are in serious trouble." I thought that was strange. I then phoned Dr. Harold Robinson, the president of the Association of Medical Officers of Health, and I said, "Have you got this worked out?" Dr. Robinson said the Minister of Labour has not formally approached their group to work out details of how health units in each community would deal with the right to know.

Obviously, Billy—I mean the member for Sandwich-Riverside or Riverside-Sandwich or whatever it is—did not talk to the labour people. He has not talked to industry. Obviously, there has not been much dialogue with the health units. The minister shakes his head. My staff talked to Dr. Harold Robinson, president of the Association of Medical Officers of Health. Who am I to believe? Dr. Robinson said they have not worked out the details; they have not formally been

approached to work out the details. The minister shakes his head, vehemently. He has worked it out with no one. I do not think he knows what is in this act, quite frankly. That is why I think it is such a mess.

Mr. Breaugh: We can hear the rattles over here.

Mr. Martel: I think it is such a mess. Hazardous physical agents—I want to go on but I want to get this bill through. The employer is required to produce an inventory of all hazardous materials present in the work place. This includes hazardous chemicals and biological agents as required by the work place hazardous materials information system criteria that will be put in the regulation, but it does not include hazardous physical agents. I think they are prepared to move that.

The inventory should be required to be updated. That is another little thing they left out. They are going to make an inventory, originally, but they do not ever have to update it. Is that not good? They make a list; I wonder what people were high on when they drafted this piece of legislation, some of the toxic chemicals they were being exposed to or something, that they would not require the list be updated. Now the minister is going to accept another amendment from me on that.

Mr. Haggerty: You are making headway, Elie. You are doing well.

Mr. Martel: I know, but it is so hard.

The inventory should be required to be updated as soon as a new hazardous material is introduced into the work place and the act should be appropriately amended in section 8 to enable the joint health and safety committee, or in section 7, the health and safety representative, to approve all new materials or equipment before they enter the work place.

I want to tell members a tragic story about a young man, 33 or 34 years of age, named Robin Comba. Falconbridge had a silo break and this stuff spewed out on the floor. A contractor was brought in to clean it up and Robin Comba was given a dust bag. I say to my friend, he knows what a dust bag is, having worked for Inco. He put the dust bag on his face and proceeded to clean up, except the particles were so fine, they went through the dust bag. When you inhale the stuff and it comes in contact with fluid, it cooks you. It cooked his lungs and after four days of suffering, he died.

Mr. Haggerty: Is that nickel carbonyl in the air?

Mr. Martel: I do not know. It was a light substance. Nobody knew and nobody told him the equipment was proper. He inhaled it through the dust bag. They had an inquest. The man is dead. Had he had the proper equipment, he would be alive. Was he irresponsible? Has anybody been charged? Not on your sweet life. Robin Comba should be walking today and he should be healthy. Had he only had the power to say, "Before I clean that up, I want to make sure the equipment I am wearing protects me."

When I raised it, the company was very irritated and it wrote to the Minister of Labour. So I wrote to a friend of mine who is one of the leading experts on fine particles, Dr. Brian Kaye, and he said: "It is a tragedy. It should never have happened."

1640

What I have in my Bill 149, which should be in this bill, is that workers have a right to make sure the equipment they are assigned to wear is actually going to protect them. It did not protect Robin Comba from a toxic substance. He did not know what he was working with. He is dead and there are no charges. It is interesting, is it not? You can have a WHMIS bill, but if you do not give the workers any power, they are dead.

Construction sites: I talked to people in the construction industry last week. It blew their minds.

The Minister of Labour walks back in. He was gone. He had to go to the powder room, I think. He is back.

As I say, construction sites are left out. He waves his hand. "Ahhh," he says. Maybe he should go and work on a construction site for a while. In fact, he might go to work for a while. I do not think he has been working much in the past two or three years. I do not know his problems, but I know one thing. I know that at a number of construction sites where I have had friends fired—I tried to get the Minister of Labour to help one of them because he took pictures because all the floor places where they have holes did not have barriers. The company fired him. He was not supposed to take pictures.

Mr. Philip: For taking pictures?

Mr. Martel: That is right.

I have just written to the minister in the last day, asking him—a lawyer had to take the company to arbitration; not the Ministry of Labour under section 24 of the act, never. Now the lawyer, a good Liberal lawyer, is writing to me seven months after the hearing to see if we can get a hearing before the Ontario Labour Relations Board. I think that is what it went

before. Seven months. The Minister of Labour should have protected him, but that is asking for too much.

I know what the minister's response is going to be, but there are all kinds of substances in the work place. What about the courthouse in London? The then Minister of Government Services knew for six years that the roof was full of asbestos. They started to reconstruct it and none of the workers were told there was asbestos. That is a construction site, is it not? Would that not be considered a construction site? They had no protection and they are not going to be protected under this act or under these amendments because they are excluded. Maybe somebody can justify it for them.

As I wind down—the minister will be pleased to hear that—I have a couple of other concerns. "...if the employer has made every effort reasonable in the circumstances to identify or obtain the identity of the ingredients for the inventory." What does that mean? What does "every reasonable effort in the circumstances" mean?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: They have to try hard.

Mr. Martel: They have to try hard. What happens if they do not succeed? Are they allowed to use the stuff? Hopefully, the minister can point that out to me because I do not think that is what it says. I have that section of the act here. I put them both side by side, the question I raised. The part of the act is subsection 22a(5). "An employer shall advise a director in writing if, after making reasonable efforts, the employer is unable to identify or obtain the identity of the ingredients of a hazardous material as required by the regulations." That does not tell me what is going to happen. That stops short and it worries me. I suggest we have to have some indication of what transpires after that.

Subsection 29(4a) enables an inspector to issue an order that an employer's material or equipment cannot be used if the prescribed label or data sheet or information is not available, but the section is discriminatory. It says "may" in the WHMIS agreement. "No supplier can offer to sell a hazardous material without a label or material safety data sheet, and such compulsion shall be indicated in direction to the inspector."

Now, that is not compulsory. That is not "shall." When the minister and I talked about "shall" or "may" the other day—I have gone through this argument for 20 years, what "shall" and "may" mean. Somebody tries to soft-pedal me all the time and says, "They really mean the same." I know the Speaker, in his infinite

wisdom, knows full well, as the lawyer he is, that there is a difference between "may" and "shall." There is a difference. I know the Speaker agrees with me. He nods his head, I think. We want the minister to look at that.

Finally, one group that wants to appear or have some say is concerned about the right of a community to pass a bylaw that entitles it to the right to do inspections. The minister does not want that, I know. I am not sure they have the capacity to do it. I understand the minister is going to meet with the mayor of the city tomorrow to discuss this. I want to be fair to the minister, as always. I know he is going to meet with the mayor tomorrow. I do not see any harm. I do not know if they have the capacity. I suspect that in my part of the world or in other communities, smaller health units, they might not have the capacity to go in and investigate. I am not sure we should deny them the right, though. He might want to do it by regulation or that they meet certain criteria, but I am not sure we should simply say no. I think something is workable.

In conclusion, let me indicate that I intend to move—I am not sure, but I hope there have been some negotiations going on as I rap here so that maybe we can come to some conclusion. I have a simple way of doing it. The minister has a convoluted way. I sometimes think that civil servants, I say to my friend the minister, cloud or make the situation much more complex than it needs to be to achieve what is wanted.

I think the keystone to this has to be that you report. When a company makes a list, an inventory, automatically a copy goes to the Minister of Labour, the health unit and the fire department. If the minister needs time—he does; I concede he could not receive the 50,000, 60,000, or 70,000 companies in one slug tomorrow. I understand that. I am prepared to see that "if." But it has to be mandatory and he has to have a schedule.

What legal counsel told me this afternoon was that if he does not have a schedule, as we would lay out in the act for him by saying, "You have the regulatory power," it becomes automatic. They must provide it right away. There is no way out. That is what legal counsel told me. I do not know what they have told the minister, but I spent half an hour with legal counsel during question period. He says that the amendments I have proposed would make it mandatory for them to report. We are prepared to move a section that gives the minister time to lay the schedule out, but if he does not, then it would be

compulsory for them to report immediately what it is they have. That is the guts of it.

I have attempted to show where the ministry, by its own studies, does not know what is going on and has not been able to control the nine or 10 designated substances. There are no committees in place for many of them. Thirty-four per cent of them do not have an inventory, an assessment or a control program yet. Thirty-three per cent of those that have designated substances still do not have a committee. Committees were required when the regulations came in individually. The act said 20 but the regulations on designated substances in fact said even under 20 if you have a designated substance. A full 33 per cent of the companies with designated substances with less than 20 employees still do not have them.

We do not even know who has designated substances, quite frankly, because we did not know or the Minister of Labour did not know that there were toxic substances in one half of the 3,000 surveyed. How do we know that they know all the companies that are using designated substances? In particular, asbestos: What about all the garages that grind brakes? The minister shakes his head, but what about all the garages that grind brakes? We do not know whether they have booths to control the workers. In fact, we do not know how many garages in this province grind down brakes; there would be no assessment, no program and no committee.

To try to get me to accept this stuff on blind faith is really too much to expect and, I would hope, too much for this House to expect. When we move on the bill, we are going to toughen it up. We are not going to make it for the minister, or the health unit or the fire department, to have to go and ask; we are going to make it compulsory for people to report so that we know and then we act to reduce injuries and death by toxic substances.

1650

Mr. Haggerty: I stand to support Bill 79, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act. I perhaps have some reservations about some of the particular sections. I was just pondering whether I should follow the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) or not. Who is the chap who looks after the Canadian Federation of Independent Business? Is he Bulloch? Anyway, I supported the member's Bill 149, and I received a very interesting letter from the federation. It is very critical of the stand I have taken on the matter of occupational health. It indicated to me that if we are to move into this area of more

preventive measures, it would be too costly to the industries and the business people in Ontario.

I look at occupational health as an area to provide preventive measures more so than anything. If you do not have a healthy work force, you are going to pay for it later on. Industry pays for it through the Workers' Compensation Board assessments. You pay for it through workers' compensation claims and you pay for it through fatalities in the work place, particularly in the area of occupational health.

I support any measure that will help take the initiative to provide some preventive measures. I have some reservations about the involvement with the federal government in compatible or parallel legislation. The area about the volunteer or paid firemen or the fire departments in local municipalities has been mentioned by the previous speaker. I think of an incident that happened in the city of Port Colborne not long ago in the transportation of materials from the American side going through the canal. I guess the ship left the American side and came into the harbour at Port Colborne. It radioed ahead that it had two injured workers on board. The fire department was called out and they went down. They had Scott airpacks and went down and removed the men from the cargo hold. It was carrying scrap metal.

Who would ever have thought there would be anything in there that would be considered dangerous material? When you work in these industries, particularly in the metal industries, in machine shops, they use special cutting oils. It was the cutting oil in with the steel in the closed quarters of the cargo hold that created a situation that generated heat. The fumes came up from this cutting oil and two sailors lost their lives.

In that event, two firemen almost lost their lives too because when you go in with a Scott airpack, it may be good for 15, 20 or 25 minutes; it depends on how hard the person is working. If you are climbing up and down cargo holds, perhaps you are at some time going to say it might be safe and take that mask off.

One of the firemen was removed to hospital for future observation. My brother was the deputy fire chief in Port Colborne and he kept me well informed on matters of this nature. When I got wind of it or heard of it, I said to make sure there was a record at the hospital that the fireman had been there and had been treated for such an event because maybe 10 or 15 years down the road he would end up with an occupational health problem, perhaps a respiratory problem.

These things can happen all over the place. I happened to be a member of a volunteer fire company in Port Colborne. In fact, I had five brothers and a brother-in-law who belonged to the company so we served our terms as volunteer firemen. I lost my brother last September and it was because of a liver problem. I will tell members this much, that it was not caused from drinking, but I looked at it and I said perhaps it was related to his occupation. If anybody is a firefighter and has dealt in some of these oil fires or whatever it may be—and industrial fires—they have no idea what is in that building, what it contains, what kind of fumes and gases may be generated. Nobody had any idea.

In fact, I think that in the Port Colborne region the fire department had a catalogue of what it thought were hazardous materials within the community and it used to keep a card on that particular thing. When they went out to a fire and they thought this was the problem area, they had to be careful. Again the question was, did they have the right equipment or the right working gear? There has been some question about that, whether it is safe or not.

If one were to walk into a hardware store or go into a Canadian Tire store—in many cases there may be a fire in some of these hardware stores. Again, one says, "Well, it is just an ordinary store." The members should go into those stores and look in the alleyways or in the floor. On the shelves they will find herbicides and pesticides. They will find other chemicals there all contained in one area. There are no barriers between them in case of an event to contain a spill or even a fire in that area. I will tell members, it is a risk to the community if that event does happen there.

I can recall once being called to a fire in a hardware store, and the first thing we knew, we thought there were firecrackers in the store, for example. Do the members know what it was? Shotgun shells and .22 shells, and they were going off all over the place. People just do not realize what lies out in the community. When I first came in here—and I am sure the member for Sudbury East will agree with me—I think there were two of us here who were pushing forward the right-to-know legislation, so anybody in the work place should know what hazards are there.

I do a lot of work with the Workers' Compensation Board. The member mentioned the matter of sinus cancer; I think I worked on that particular case—the first sinus cancer case in Ontario—but the person was deceased. I won that appeal. I remember going to the board at that time. The chairman of the board was Mr. Legge,

a well-known lawyer in Toronto, and one of the comments that came up when there was shown a diagram of the industry was, "Well, he did not work in a designated area that was maybe subject to cancer later on." I said he did work in that area, but they had it on his work sheet that he was not in that area. He worked around what they call a cobalt furnace.

All I said was that was the same process that was used in the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima. That chairman said, "That is enough." He allowed the case. When I think about the former chairman of the board, if other chairmen had followed his practice or procedure there, perhaps they would have a better understanding of occupational health diseases in Ontario. We do not see that now with the current chairman, the past chairman or the other two chairmen there. I think Mr. Legge should be given credit and I commend him in that particular area. He showed some consideration of the industrial diseases that employees are faced with almost every day.

1700

I look at the bill and find it does not say it is mandatory. The health unit can come into the picture, but it says, "upon request." The same thing applies to the fire department: "upon request." If we want to have a healthy work place in Ontario, we are going to have to use the word "mandatory" in the act, because it will not come about.

In the act, it says that where there is not an occupational health committee, you can appoint some person within that industry, regardless of how big or small it is, to be the representative. That does not go far enough. If we want to take preventive measures, we are going to have to put some teeth in it, and it is going to have to come through the word "mandatory" or "shall," because it is a serious problem with all the chemicals that are out there. I just look at that and say, "It is great to say it is a step in the right direction, but does it go far enough?"

Volunteer firemen, for example, can exempt themselves, or under the act they are exempt from going into a fire, but a paid fireman, because of the position he is in, has to go into the heat of the situation or the event. He has no choice. The law says he must be there, regardless of what he may encounter and what effect it will have upon his health. Every precaution should be taken in this area when you say he has to carry out his responsibilities.

Governments in the past and today have come out with an emergency plan for municipalities, to

say they must have emergency plans there. In that emergency plan, they should have matters related to the occupational health and the problems in that particular area—the right-to-know legislation. In fact, even the Ministry of the Environment should be included in some of the amendments here to make sure you are going to cover all phases of the right-to-know legislation.

The intent of the bill is good, but sometimes I would have to question, does it go far enough? Preventive measures are less costly than having an event take place where you are going to have the work force crippled by an event, an accident, an occupational health disease, whatever it may be. In the long run, it costs us more money. As the old saying goes on television, if you are looking to service your automobile—I think it was Fram that said it—"Either pay now or pay later."

I responded to that letter and the comments from the association. I wrote back to them and said: "You tell me how we can reduce the number of accidents and the number of fatal accidents in Ontario, the number of persons who have come down with an industrial disease. You tell me how to prevent them. I can tell you then we will reduce the cost of assessment, the cost of operating the workers' compensation programs in Ontario. Until you move in that direction, that cost is going to go up higher than what it is now."

Workers' compensation is almost bankrupt today, and we have problems today in the areas of industrial diseases and so on because they are not designated as such, yet the person's health-related problem is related to his occupation. Until we make some drastic changes in this area, we can go along with steps of this nature in Bill 79 to move forward in that direction, but I think we are going to have to move more forcefully in the area of preventive measures. If we move in that area, I am sure that the cost in the long run would be of benefit to all of Ontario—to the industry, to the families and to the person who may be injured.

I suggest that I support the principle. It is a step in the right direction, and I look forward to the minister's amendments, which will perhaps add some more teeth to it.

I look at the area of confidential business information, particularly section 22e. To me, that is an escape clause for the industry, because it says:

"Where...an employer would be required under this part to disclose information that the employer considers to be confidential business information in an inventory, label or material safety data sheet, the employer may, in accordance with the regulations, file a claim with the

claims board for an exemption from the requirements."

I suggest I would be looking at that in a very cautious manner. This may provide an escape clause here so that we would have them say, "Under this section, we do not have to tell anybody what is out there." I do not have to tell the members to look at the situation that happened in the Niagara region. I think it was the Chipman chemical plant around Stoney Creek. Two or three events happened there. They still do not know what effect it will have on the community, what effect it will have if you came in contact with the fumes from that plant during that event at that time. Normally, you do not find out about that until five or 10 years down the road. Then perhaps by good cataloguing of events and the number of persons who were in contact with the gases or whatever it may be, we will draw some conclusions to say we can relate it to that event at that time.

This is the problem I find with many industries today. I have a number of chemical plants in my area, small though they may be, and I have had cases brought to my attention where people have died of liver or kidney disease. If you look at the chemical industries, particularly the paint industries, you know there may be some cause related to the chemicals they were breathing in every day in the mixing of materials. I suggest that in the bill itself, regardless of the size of the industry, as long as they are working with designated hazardous materials, it should be mandatory that there be a safety committee or for the ministry to make inspections, as one would expect it to do, to ensure that preventive measures are there.

With those few comments, I support the bill in principle. It is moving in the right direction and perhaps amendments will cover some of my concerns.

Mr. Gillies: In the absence of the Labour critic for the official opposition, my colleague the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon), I am pleased to offer some comments on Bill 79 this afternoon. I am very glad that this bill has come up for debate, that the minister has put it forward. I will refrain from referring to the minister as Billy, Mr. Speaker. I know that upsets you. It was allowed for most of the afternoon, but I will not refer to the minister as Billy again. No more Billys at all. That is three right there.

I do not propose to speak at great length. It was my hope and certainly the hope of the House that this bill might go into committee of the whole this afternoon and even be reported back and carried by the end of the day. I hope that is still a realistic

expectation, although there are certain details regarding the amendments that the minister, my colleague the critic for the New Democratic Party and myself are talking about at this very moment. I will speak for a few minutes about the principle of this bill, the initiative and some of the background pertaining to it.

I should point out, as the member for Sudbury East did, that the minister would have it that this legislation appeared almost in a vacuum and that he should somehow have an exclusive call on the credit for bringing forward this type of legislation within our province. But we all know a national initiative has been launched by the government of Canada in an attempt to reach a national workplace hazardous materials information system. I remind members of the House that there was a bit of a rocky period in the development of that national program because of this government in Ontario bringing forward Bill 101 in January 1986.

I will temper my criticism. I said the day the minister introduced this bill into the House that I understood the input from the government of Ontario on the question of the national WHMIS program was, for the most part, positive and constructive. I gave the minister credit for that at the time. I am glad, in terms of our participation in the national program, that the situation seems to be back on the rails.

I am sure the minister would not want, perhaps even inadvertently, not to point out the very overriding, positive contributions made towards the development of the program by such groups as the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Chemical Producers' Association and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, which I would say in fairness had as much, if not more, to do with the progress that has been made in this area as the government of Ontario.

I am sure that in a moment of fairness and candour the Minister of Labour, Billy, would agree with me on this matter. I feel I am going to be called to order, Mr. Speaker. I will not taunt you any further in this regard.

1710

The bill we have before us goes beyond WHMIS in a couple of important ways. We have to ask ourselves whether it is enough.

I listened to the comments made by the member for Sudbury East today, made at some length, and I have to say I do not begrudge the time taken by my friend from Sudbury East to talk about this because of the length of time and the expertise that he has devoted in the whole area of occupational health and safety for many,

many years. So I do not begrudge it at all. I have said before I could sit and listen to the member for Sudbury East all day on these matters and, in fact, on more than one occasion, I have.

As individual members I think we all get very hot and bothered, and justifiably so, about these occupational health and safety questions, particularly with regard to the question of designated substances. I had an incident in my constituency in recent weeks which I think most members of the House are aware of, with a company that was taken to task by the ministry for its handling of isocyanates, a rather dangerous chemical used in the production of plastic foam for insulation. The minister and I, on that particular occasion, with regard to that particular company, were in complete agreement on the situation and in complete agreement on the very tough stance that had to be taken with regard to that company.

During the period of some year and three or four months that I was Labour critic for our party, I was accused from time to time by a couple of representatives of business groups of being too pro-labour and implicitly anti-business on some of these matters of health and safety. But when I saw the situation at that Koolatron plant in Brantford, it convinced me more than ever that I do not think being tough in these health and safety matters is anti-business at all, because any responsible employer in our province wants to be on the right side of these issues and any responsible employer operating in our province does not want to be tarred with the same brush as those who would put any number of priorities ahead of the health and safety of our workers.

I toured that plant. The minister and I met with the company officials. We met with the ministry officials. I went down on the weekend after the matter was brought to my attention and toured the plant with some of the company officials. I was extremely disappointed in what I saw. I saw crews of workers who had been brought in especially for the weekend to clean up the situation, a situation that was less than satisfactory not only with regard to the use of hazardous chemicals, but also in terms of general cleanliness, the state of the plant. There were workers clearing away garbage and brush from the fire exits.

It convinced me more than ever that the kinds of employers that would flaunt the regulations with regard to hazardous substances are probably in many instances not that meticulous about other health and safety questions surrounding their plants. I made it clear to these people in this particular matter that I wanted them to remain as

an employer in my constituency and I wanted them also to comply with the law. I hope and think they have taken steps towards doing that.

When we talk about designated substances and regulations and the right of workers to know the properties of chemicals with which they are dealing, I am putting that in the context of going into the room in which the Styrofoam, the insulation foam, was made in this factory in my own constituency, where I saw that the guns, the injection mode used for the manufacturing of this foam, used this isocyanate chemical and that the workers had been taught to test that the chemical was coming through the gun by spraying it on the walls in the area in which they were working.

The employers told me that the ministry staff drew it to their attention that when you are dealing with a hazardous chemical, why the heck would you test it on surfaces around which the workers are working eight hours a day. They did not seem to think there was anything wrong with this until it was brought to their attention that there was something very wrong with it.

I used this example because I want to put a very specific example before the House, a specific example of what happens when employers and, indeed, workers, do not know what they are supposed to do. They do not know enough about the properties of the chemicals with which they are working. They do not know enough and they are given insufficient instruction on the way these chemicals are to be dealt with and the steps that are to be taken to make sure that they are used safely.

They simply do not know enough. So when the ministry officials go in for an inspection, in this case prompted by an anonymous complaint, presumably by a former employee, that then is dealt with. But how many instances of a similar nature are not dealt with because they are simply not brought to the attention of the appropriate officials?

I would take it as a compliment if I were ever accused of being overly concerned about bringing these matters into focus and into line and being hard on business. In this regard I see it as a compliment, because most employers do not want to be tarred with this kind of brush at all.

Does this legislation go far enough in protecting the workers in the province? I guess we can say, from a political point of view, that we could all stand in the House and say that whatever is brought forward does not do enough. But perhaps that kind of comment is not that constructive at the moment because we have an opportunity, in the next number of minutes, to

deal with some of the specifics of the bill and, perhaps, deal with some amendments.

I do want to make the point to the minister, and I know he shares this point of view with me, that no matter what we do with the legislation today, the guts of this whole area is the regulations. The regulations have to be strictly enforced if workers are going to be truly protected and, unfortunately, the ministry does not have a consistently good track record on the question of enforcement.

We do know that one third of the Ontario work places with hazardous materials on the premises have not carried out an assessment or implemented a control program for these materials as required by the current law. A second fundamental flaw in the legislation, or shortcoming, is that there is no provision within the legislation for specific testing mechanisms for work place materials.

There was a study which I believe my friend the member for Sudbury East alluded to earlier. It was a United States study entitled Toxicity Testing: Strategies to Determine Needs and Priorities. That test found that almost 80 per cent of over 48,000 chemicals common to US work places had absolutely no toxicological information available regarding those substances. The chemicals had simply not been tested, and the effect on the health of the people working with them was simply not known. For the remaining 20 per cent about which anything is known, the information is thought to be simply inadequate.

I would have to agree with the earlier speaker that it is probably safe to say that not one single chemical in use in the work places in our own province, not one, has been completely tested. Not one of them leaves no unknowns behind it in terms of the effects on human health. There are chemicals and agents within this province that are better tested, but there are those which are simply not tested adequately at all. So this bill does very little to address a problem which no doubt exists in Ontario just as it exists in Ohio, Michigan and other industrial states where the American study to which I have alluded was made.

The real substance of this bill is, as I said earlier, the regulations. The regulations will incorporate the WHMIS agreement, and it is here that the criteria which will determine what a hazardous material is will be set out—what a trade secret is, what the cutoff level for toxin shall be, and so on. It must be guaranteed by the minister, not only through this legislation but also through the regulations that will follow, that both labour and industry will have an opportunity to study the

regulations and approve them before they are gazetted.

1720

I will very briefly allude to the question of amendments. As far as I am concerned, the real guts of the bill is in section 22c, and that is with regard to exactly what information should be furnished to the medical officer of health, the fire department and other vitally interested parties and under what conditions this information will be brought forward to those agencies.

All I can tell you at the moment, Mr. Speaker, is that the minister, my counterpart and myself are talking right now even as the debate continues. I know you may doubt my ability to do two things at once—sometimes I doubt my ability to do one thing at once—but we are talking about it. Whether it is the amendment proposed by the government, the amendment I am prepared to put forward or the one to be offered by the New Democratic Party, I think there is agreement among my colleagues and myself that some amendment is needed with regard to section 22c and we will get to that.

I will also be offering an amendment which I hope the minister will consider with regard to subsection 22d(1) where there is the provision that an employer will “assess all biological and chemical agents produced in the work place for use...to determine” whether they are hazardous or not. I am going to propose an amendment that is a little more specific about how that will be done. My colleague in the NDP agrees with me; it is pretty general. We are going to propose that an independent laboratory approved by the joint health and safety committee be the vehicle for such testing.

Further, there would be another amendment I would be proposing, to add a subsection 22d(3) with regard to the use of independent laboratory testing once the joint health and safety committee has run into a question regarding air quality, and I would like to deal with that too.

There is so much more that could be said, but I am going to stop right now because we have about 40 minutes, I hope, to deal with the amendments in committee of the whole. That is the extent of my comments at the present time.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I do not intend to be very long; I have just one specific point about clause 22c(1)(d) and my concern for the firefighters of this province. I think it is very unfortunate that we do not give our fire departments a little better co-operation and assurance of safety. I remember a few months ago sitting in the standing committee on regulations and private bills and

we were dealing with the Windsor bill pertaining to this same topic, the fact that materials should be marked so that the firefighters know what is in a building before they have to go in to fight a fire.

I support many of the comments made by the member for Sudbury East, the member for Erie and the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies). But in this one instance, the mistake the minister is making at the present time is in saying there is a possibility they can inquire as to what is there. The onus should be on the employer or the owner of the building or the manufacturer to advise not only the firefighters but also the medical officer of health so that the fire department, the medical people and the police departments have some idea of what is in the building in the event of an emergency.

The onus should be on the owner of the material to advise the people I mentioned, rather than the reverse, that they can inquire, because they do not know when to inquire. I will leave it with that. I support the other members and their observations.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Do any other members wish to participate in this debate? The member for Carleton.

Mr. Sterling: That is what I hope to be after the next election. With the help of all the Liberals in the area, I think I am going to make it too, Mr. Speaker. I am the member for Carleton-Grenville.

Mr. Breagh: They would have to be Liberals to do it.

Mr. Sterling: The local Liberals, yes.

An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act is an act I am very much concerned about in that this government has failed to make amendments to this act to protect workers from one of the most significant health hazards that is faced in the work place today. I am talking about secondhand smoke. This government has failed to answer many, many questions that I have put to it about the particular problem of secondhand smoke in the work place.

This bill deals with the right of a worker to know of hazardous substances in his work place. While this bill deals primarily with chemical and physical substances that are less known as a hazard than secondhand tobacco smoke, I think this bill should be enlarged or widened to include provisions relating to secondhand smoke.

Therefore, during the committee of the whole House, I will be putting forward an amendment that will ensure that an employee will not only know what hazardous chemical substances he is working with, a right to know in this particular

bill, but he will also have the right to know what levels of tobacco smoke he is being exposed to and the hazards of that secondhand smoke.

I find it somewhat ironic that the governments of Canada and Ontario would bring forward an act like this while ignoring perhaps the most significant health hazard of all in the work place, and that is secondhand smoke. We now have significant proof that secondhand smoke is causing up to 500 premature deaths a year in Canada. If we weighed all the problems caused by other hazardous substances in the country, I doubt we would reach the magnitude of the problem of secondhand smoke in the work place.

I hope I can count on the support of my colleagues from the New Democratic Party to widen the scope of this bill to include an amendment to section 22d. While not controlling smoking in the work place, which is what I would like to see this government do by adopting Bill 71, the Nonsmokers Protection Act, it will at least give the worker the right to know how bad the problem really is.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I thank all honourable members for their comments.

I understand my friend the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling) will be proposing an amendment and I will offer some comments at that time.

The member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson) made some comments regarding the onus that appears to be on fire departments to request information under section 22c of the bill. He makes a good point. I hope we will be able to address that in amendments which we have been working on even as this debate has gone forward.

The member for Erie had some concerns, particularly regarding section 22e and confidential information. I am quite confident and comfortable with the bill as section 22e now stands in that we are entirely within the range and the realm of what is provided under WHMIS. I believe the confidentiality issue is very properly dealt with under section 22e and gives the parties proper protection in terms of confidentiality where it is necessary.

The mechanism of appeal is a very important one and indeed both sides are protected where, on final appeal, a substance has been labelled as confidential. An appeal from that decision may be made by workers or their representatives; so the appeals mechanism can be put into place by both.

My friend the member for Brantford made some comments regarding Koolatron as being an example of some of his concerns. I certainly share them, having visited that company as well. The member for Brantford talked a lot about a lack of knowledge of chemicals, and I suggest to him that is exactly what this right-to-know legislation is all about. We really are entering a new era, which we have not seen before. I agree with him that our lack of knowledge today is quite appalling. Under the right-to-know legislation, in a period of time, that knowledge will increase.

Right now, too often in work places, there is a lack of knowledge, not only by workers but also by supervisors and the senior levels of management. It is proposed under this legislation that this whole world will change, as indeed it must. Too often workers are exposed to injury or to illness simply through ignorance which they have and which ought not to be so; they should have been educated and trained properly in the safe handling of those substances. That is a management responsibility, and that responsibility has not always been met.

I am glad to hear that the member for Brantford intends to continue to walk with the workers, figuratively. In that, I guess he agrees with my friend from Sudbury who, just after he stood up and said some generally positive things about another piece of legislation this House may be debating, was taken out to the woodshed by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) and told, "We cannot support this legislation because it is anti-business." I am glad to see that my friend from Brantford is hanging tough and that there are at least a few members over on that side of the House who have some support for workers, which is considered in this bill.

To my friend the member for Sudbury East, who carried on for an hour and a half, I say quite frankly that I think I have heard this refrain before. Many of my friend's examples were examples I have heard not once, not twice, not three times, but four or five times. Some things never change.

There are a number of things I could say about the speech of my friend the member for Sudbury East. Let me deal with a little bit of his view of life and his view of information. He talked about 1,500 of 3,000 companies in the health and safety survey having toxic substances we did not know about. Let me give the facts. I think they are just a little different from what the member for Sudbury East gave. In so many areas these little shadings do become different.

First of all, there were not 3,000 companies; there were 5,000. The number has gone down from 50 per cent to 30 per cent, very quickly, in one quick step. Second, the information is that the workers—members of the health and safety committees—reported that these 1,500 companies had designated substances; in point of fact, in a large number of cases, they did not. Now, if my friend is asking me to agree with him that in a number of cases they did have designated substances and had not gone through the proper assessments and controls, I agree with him—just as I agree with him that there are some health and safety committees not in place. I just wanted to put that small matter on the record.

Finally, in the interest of time, let me observe that a lot of the debate has turned on section 22c. My friend the member for Sudbury East speaks of the fact that we have weakened the bill from the previous bill, Bill 101. I acknowledge very openly that clauses (c) and (d) of subsection 22c(1) represent a change; they represent a situation where medical officers of health and fire departments shall request the information rather than have it all delivered on day one.

I do not want to leave the impression that matter was brought forward without proper consultation, because I know that, regrettably, my friend left that impression. That change was brought forward after we had discussions with Dr. Korn, who I am advised was the previous head of the Ontario medical officers of health, and he had a concern over the provisions of Bill 101.

I know we have been working diligently with my friend the member for Sudbury East and my friend the member for Brantford. I am trying to get some legislative wording I hope will satisfy all of us which will not put us into any straitjacket; which will allow for an orderly flow of this information to the ministry and to both fire departments and medical officers of health but at the same time will not, from my perspective, cut off the flow which may go the other way, which may be requested from an individual in this province; which will not tie the hands of that individual or of those two bodies in getting that request adhered to very quickly.

I hope we have some wording. If not, I guess we are going to be putting a series of amendments during committee of the whole House.

I thank the members for their comments. With that, I move second reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 79, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Mr. Chairman: We have in front of us Bill 79. Do we have any comments, questions or amendments, and if so, to what sections?

Mr. Martel: Section 2, Mr. Chairman. I move that—

Mr. Chairman: Excuse me, we are just taking a list at this point.

Mr. Martel: Oh, you want a list of all of them?

Mr. Chairman: That is correct.

Mr. Martel: Oh, good. I have amendments to sections 2 and section 3 of the bill. These will amend subsection 14(2) of the act in section 2 of the bill. In subsection 3 of the bill, I have amendments to subsections 22a(1), 22a(2), 22a(3), 22a(3), 22c(2), plus a new subsection 22c(4) and section 22h; and section 5.

Mr. Chairman: There does not seem to be a complete joining between the list that I have and the list you have mentioned. I have no amendment to section 2, so perhaps the table could have a copy.

Mr. Martel: I have just received a copy, because it has just been Xeroxed, of the amendment to section 3 of the bill, subsection 22c(4). Has anyone given the chair a copy of that?

1740

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, if I can be helpful, I do not think you have any amendments to section 2. May I suggest we go through the bill? I think most of the amendments will be very straightforward with the exception of section 22c. I think we are close to working something out and if we can stand down section 22c when we get there, I think we may be able to get this done today.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, I have subsection 22c(4). If I may go back, the member has provided me with a copy of section 2. I have section 3: subsections 22a(1), 22a(2) and 22a(3). Then I have—okay, this is different, Mr. Gordon's. Then I have clauses 22c(1)(c) to 22c(1)(e).

Mr. Martel: That is right, and a new subsection 22c(4) that has just been handed to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Then I have a section 3: clause 22c(1)(e). I am sorry; that is government. Then subsection 2. I have one from each of the members. Thank you. Subsection 22c(4); no, that is the minister's. I have one from the minister: section 3—subsection 22c(4).

Mr. Gillies: Perhaps I can suggest this: The minister, my colleague and I have talked about section 22c and I think we are all agreed on one amendment. A lot of what you have in front of you, Mr. Chairman, will probably go out the window. I actually agree with the minister. I think you will find that if we go section by section, this would actually move along pretty quickly and that section 22c will be resolved.

Mr. Martel: Section 22c is partially typed, the members will notice, because we were negotiating even as the debate went on. That is also my motion. This had the material put in in long-hand to accommodate the minister in what he wanted so the first portion of that was what I had drafted with legal counsel, that section being "the Lieutenant Governor in Council" down to the word "clauses." We subsequently altered it slightly and I think we have reached some consensus. We will know in a little while.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: If we can begin, I think ultimately we may have a package, as my friend the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) points out, on section 22c. Basically, we were all trying to get at the same thing. We want to make sure that everything is consequential. I think my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) may end up moving all of them. I think we have a package that all three of us will agree to.

Mr. Chairman: You three have spoken to that same section. Do we have other members who wish to make amendments or comments to various sections?

Mr. Sterling: I have an amendment to section 22d of the act in section 3 of the bill.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, that is where you are adding another subsection. Are there any further sections, amendments, comments or questions?

Mr. Gillies: I think you have two amendments I will be proposing to subsections 22d(1) and 22d(3).

Mr. Chairman: I have a subsection 22c(1) for Mr. Gordon.

Mr. Gillies: I believe I also gave the Clerk one for subsections 22d(1) and 22d(3).

Mr. Chairman: The one that is designated as Mr. Gordon, subsections 22d(1) and 22d(3), yes.

What about the one that is designated Mr. Gordon, subsection 22c(1)?

Mr. Gillies: I believe there is consensus among the three parties on an amendment to section 22c, so in all likelihood I will not move the one proposed by the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon).

Mr. Chairman: Do the members wish to refer to any sections? There being none, shall section 1 stand as part of the bill?

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel moves that section 2 of the bill be amended by striking out "clause" in the second line and by inserting in lieu thereof "clauses" and by adding thereto the following clause:

"(ab) if there are hazardous materials in the work place, post on the exterior of the work place, near the main entrance, a floor plan of the work place showing the names of all hazardous materials and their locations."

Mr. Martel: If I can speak briefly to that, I do this to try to ensure that firemen know, when they go to fight a fire, the location of the various substances on the floor, where they are, in order that they can fight the fire without fighting the unknown. In other words, an employer is going to have to post a notice to indicate where the designated substances are, and that would really alleviate many of the fears that firefighters tell me they have. I hope the government will accept it.

Mr. Gillies: Our party will be supporting the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The government will not be supporting this amendment. I would urge all members not to support it. It is our view that while this matter is important, it ought to be covered by regulation and not in the statute.

I do not have a copy of the amendment in front of me, but I am aware of its substance. The problem within the statute that my friend has not pointed out is that the amendment speaks to providing, presumably, this material each and every time the volumes change. Quite frankly, it is really quite an unworkable situation, which the government believes it can handle by regulation.

I would not want to downplay the matter at all. My friend is quite right in having raised the principle of this issue, but I just ask the House to consider doing this by regulation. We want to do everything we can to help fire departments, but this is, in our judgement, not the right way to go.

Mr. Martel: Could I ask the minister what assurance he is prepared to give me and the time frame he is going to have in drafting that part of the regulation? We could win the vote. I am not worried about that. I want assurance that the workers are going to get a regulation in a big hurry to cover that, and I want to know how long we are talking about. I need to know that. Otherwise, I would have to vote on it.

We have enough firemen who have died. They have to be in a position to know what it is they are going to be dealing with and where it is. Having listened to the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) just a few minutes ago, I think I could even get some of the minister's colleagues to vote against the minister on this one.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I cannot give my friend absolute—I do not know if he wants something in writing, in blood. We intend to review this matter with the various fire departments and see what can be done. If they wish to put this in the bill, it can be put in the bill, but it is unworkable, and I just urge my friend to understand what it is he wishes to put in the bill. We will work with the fire departments and the various organizations which represent firemen to put together something which is workable. But my friend, in his second-reading speech, was talking about putting something on the outside of a building. That just does not make sense. I think he would want to give us an opportunity to put something in the regulations which will go every bit as far as we can, but I cannot give him guarantees as to exactly what we will do today. We will make efforts in this regard.

1750

Mr. Martel: Might I suggest to the government House leader that we would be prepared to stack all of these rather than have bells ringing, if that is agreeable to my friends and the government House leader. If we decide to divide on this, we are prepared to stack the votes until the end. I do not think we want to start calling in people at this late date.

Mr. Chairman: Is there a unanimous decision to stack all divisions until the end of the bill? Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: Shall Mr. Martel's amendment to section 2 carry?

Vote stacked.

On section 3:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel moves that subsection 22a(1) of the act as set out in section 3 of the bill be amended by inserting after

"materials" in the second line "and all hazardous physical agents."

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel moves that subsection 22a(2) of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be amended by striking out "and" at the end of clause (a) and by adding thereto the following clause:

"(ab) shall set out the quantity of each ingredient in the hazardous material;"

Mr. Martel: What we are attempting to do is make sure that people know the quantities. I know there is some problem with this, I understand that difficulty. But if people do not know what it is they are working with, and the bill has a certain level below which they do not even have to report it—as inventories go up and down maybe the difficulty is insurmountable, I do not know, in terms of continuing to report that—but surely on the inventory in the work place, management must continue to indicate to the workers, as part of the educational process, just what those quantities are. I want to hear some strong argument why that should not be posted.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I ask my friends opposite to consider this amendment. I understand where my friend is coming from, but in many work places the quantity of each ingredient changes, sometimes by the hour. While I understand what my friend is getting at, I do not think this amendment is in any way practical.

Mr. Martel: My friend from Carleton-Grenville makes a suggestion. Could we indicate a range? We have to know or have some idea of what is there. I realize the difficulty with trying to get the exact number of pounds on any given day, year after year, but between now and tomorrow—because obviously we are going to get much of it done—could the minister have his staff look at the possibility of some sort of limit within which they might have to change? In other words, whether they carry two tonnes or 2,000 tonnes, if they decide to go well beyond that, it should be in their capacity to do it. Surely there might be some flexibility that could be looked at over the evening and tomorrow morning.

Mr. Sterling: The only suggestion I would have on this is to have a maximum. In other words, if the amendment read "shall set out the maximum quantity of each ingredient in the hazardous material," that might meet the needs of the proposer of this motion.

Mr. Martel: I wonder if the minister would at least have someone look at it over the evening

and we could stand it down until tomorrow. The minister agrees. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Do we have unanimous consent to stand this down?

Agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel moves that subsection 22a(3) of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(3) Where an inventory required by subsection 1 is amended during a year, the employer, not later than the first day of February in the following year, shall prepare a revised version of the inventory incorporating all changes made during the preceding year."

Mr. Martel: The minister has indicated he is prepared to accept that, so there is no sense debating it if he is going to accept it.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: It had been our intention to carry this matter through in regulation but I have no objection to accepting the amendment from my friend the member for Sudbury East. We will accept it.

Mr. Gillies: We are in agreement.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Martel: I would like to ask the House's indulgence, if we could introduce both amendments at this time. The reason I do that is to meet the concern of the minister so that he will know that what we are trying to do is move as a package, actually, clauses 22(1)(c) to 22(1)(e) and subsection 22c(4), because I am sure if one carries the other one will. If he wants to separate them, we are prepared to do that, too. But we might discuss them in tandem, rather than individually, so as to indicate what in fact we are proposing.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Perhaps if I can talk long enough we might be able to see the clock, because we are close; we may be able to work something through. As matters stand now and without putting anything on the floor, I say to my friend the member for Sudbury East, as I understand it, we have some difficulty with clause (e) of my friend's proposed amendment; not much and I think that one can be overcome. We still have some difficulty, there and if we can overcome that difficulty he could move his amendment and we then might be able to put together a package. I think we are pretty close.

Mr. Gillies: I have read the proposed amendments we were all working on. We are getting close, and to help things along, tomorrow I will

withdraw the amendment proposed by the member for Sudbury to subsection 22c(1).

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX A

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD OF ONTARIO

2. Mr. Philip: Will the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations please advise the House how many grievances have been filed by employees of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario from December 31, 1986, to January 1, 1987? Will the minister confirm whether or not a meeting took place in Toronto, with an employee from each store in attendance, at which time each staff member was asked to compose and sign a letter stating that management of LCBO was great? If so, will the minister inform what action was taken with these letters? Would the minister also advise how many offices have been occupied by Tony Marsella, supervisor, district 12, LCBO, since he first occupied his present position? Would the minister indicate the total cost of renovating-refurnishing each of the offices he has occupied? Would the minister provide the justification for each move of the office of the supervisor of district 12? [Tabled April 29, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: 1. The Liquor Control Board of Ontario employs approximately 3,500 full-time employees and 2,000 temporary employees. For the period December 31, 1985, to January 1, 1987, 207 grievances were filed. In certain instances there may be 10 or more employees filing grievances on the same issue. As an example, 23 temporaries grieved that a junior temporary was hired full-time instead of themselves.

2. Some of the staff of the LCBO, in response to external criticism, wrote letters commending the management of the board. These letters were spontaneous and were not solicited by LCBO management.

3. District Supervisor Tony Marsella was appointed to his present position in October 1983. His district office at that time was located in a store at Jane and Dundas. This store was scheduled to be completely renovated and converted to a self-serve operation, and because of the store's need for all available space, Mr. Marsella was moved to an office that had been used for stock storage in the rear of the store at Martinway Plaza. His furnishings, files, etc., were moved in an employee's van at no cost to the LCBO. There were no moneys spent on renovations. While

Mr. Marsella was occupying this temporary space, the LCBO was planning a new store at Richview Square and it incorporated, into the design, space for a supervisor's office. When the store opened, Supervisor Marsella moved to this store at a cost of less than \$100. The office he occupies is approximately eight feet by 12 feet. His furnishings consist of a desk, chair, four small filing cabinets, photocopier and two side chairs.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

4. Mr. Davis: Would the minister responsible for disabled persons provide the names of the advertising agency and the representatives from the disabled community assisting his ministry in their campaign on disability issues; the type, cost, frequency and content of any current or proposed advertising; the date of tender for the advertising contract; all bids on the contract, including the respective bidders; and an indication of the response to the campaign. [Tabled April 29, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Agencies: On July 25, 1986, the following agencies were invited to make presentations: Anderson Advertising, Cardon, Rose Inc., Kuleba and Shylitt Creative Consultants; Straiton, Pearson, Martin and Holman; Trottier Communication Marketing Inc.; W. P. Wittman Ltd. Kuleba and Shylitt chose not to participate.

Consultation with disabled community: Anderson Advertising, the successful agency, made a presentation of three creative concepts at a December 30, 1986, meeting to Beryl Potter, Scarborough Action Awareness; Anna Schwab, PUSH and On Our Own; W. Sparks, Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded. Invited but not present were: Kirby Rowe, Canadian Paraplegic Association; Ron McInnes, Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled Persons; and a representative of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. The review committee recommended the concept that was developed by the agency.

Advertising campaign: Billboard campaign at 280 locations for four weeks starting March 1, 1987. The theme was "Are you blocking out the abilities of disabled persons?" Date of tender: July 25, 1986. The advertising budget was \$88,000.

Plans: There are no other advertising plans envisaged at this time.

Response to campaign: Attitudinal advertising is always difficult to measure because the campaign is directed to the public at large rather than a tightly targeted audience. We are aware of the campaign's success by compliments we have received, and our public inquiries in March 1987 were up 220 per cent over a year earlier.

RENT REGULATION

135. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Housing provide documentation to substantiate his claim made on Tuesday, May 19, 1987, that as a result of Bill 51, An Act to provide for the Regulation of Rents charged for Rental Units in Residential Complexes, tenants will save \$60 million? [Tabled May 21, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Curling: In response to the above noted question, I am pleased to provide the following information:

On September 18, 1986, my ministry released a study which estimated the impact on rents of new rent review legislation. I might add that this study was released in Ottawa to the legislative committee reviewing Bill 51. Mr. Jackson was a member of this committee.

While this study was based on a number of assumptions, I am confident that they represent an accurate picture of future rent increases. The bottom line of that study was stated in the executive summary: "The system to be in place from 1987 onward under Bill 51 will result in a reduction of net rent increases of between \$35 million and \$61 million compared to the system in place prior to August 1, 1985."

Executive Summary

This paper presents initial estimates of the impact on rent increases of both the interim 1985 legislation and the proposed 1986 legislation on rent review.

Much discussion to this point in time has focused on changes to the rent review guideline. However, other changes proposed prove to be of even greater importance. In particular, the implementation of a rent registry and the extension of rent review to new units outweighs changes to the guideline.

Often overlooked is the fact that many rental units receive increases below the guideline. An October 1985 survey indicated that half of all units with the same tenant as the

year before received a rent increase below six per cent.

The significant change in the 1985 legislation was the lowering of the guideline from six to four per cent. It is estimated that this move saved Ontario tenants about \$40 million annually.

The proposed legislation contained in Bill 51 will virtually eliminate illegal rent increases due to the implementation of a rent registry which will make information on legal rents available to both current and prospective tenants and bring into rent review some 130,000 units that were formerly exempt from rent review because they were first rented after 1975. These two changes offset, or more than offset, the expected increase in the rent guideline.

The changes in the law and regulation related to rent review applications will have a mixed impact. The major features which work to reduce rent awards are the costs-no-longer-borne on financing cost decrease, the rollback on capital replacement and the stricter treatment of renovations. Stricter maintenance provisions and the outlawing of key money will also benefit tenants; however, the dollar value of these measures could not be estimated.

Provisions increasing rents are the allowance for the management and administration of capital expenditures, acceptance of the interest paid by a landlord on loans to carry his financial losses, the reliance on the five per cent cap to limit rent increases after the sale of a building and a limited relief provision for buildings with chronically depressed rents.

The initial impact of these changes will be less favourable to tenants than the long-term impacts. This is due to the delayed impact of the costs-no-longer-borne and capital rollback provisions as well as the effect in the early years of reliance on the five per cent cap on rent increases due to the sale of the building.

The bottom line on the full range of impacts of the proposed legislation on rent increases is as follows:

The system to be in place from 1987 onward under Bill 51 will result in a reduction of net rent increases of between \$35 million and \$61 million compared to the system in place prior to August 1, 1985.

When compared to the system in place for the last 12 months, the impact of Bill 51 ranges from a \$5-million net increase in the level of

rent increases to a \$21 million net decrease in the level of rent increases. The long-term impact ranges from a \$19-million net decrease in the level of rent increases to a \$45-million net decrease in the level of rent increases.

It should be noted that these impacts do not include the rent rollbacks and rent rebates to tenants that will result from the introduction of the rent registry.

Preliminary Estimates
Impact on Average Rent Increases
of Rent Review Reforms

The purpose of this report is to provide rough order of magnitude estimates of the impact on rent increases of the 1985 amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act, and the proposed Residential Rent Regulation Act.

In this memorandum, "past" will refer to the system of rent review applied before August 1, 1985; "present" will refer to the system to be in place from August 1, 1985, to December 31, 1986; "future" will refer to the system proposed for the period from January 1, 1987, onward.

In order to prepare such estimates, it is necessary to utilize a number of assumptions.

Alternative assumptions may be tested within the same analytical framework.

It should also be noted that some minor adjustments can be made to some of the calculations in order to improve the estimates.

Step 1—Five types of rent increase:

All rent increases can be classified into five categories for analysis: (1) below-guideline increases, (2) guideline increases, (3) rent review awards, (4) uncontrolled increases, (5) illegal increases. These are mutually exclusive except for the overlap between the fourth category and the first two. This overlap is eliminated in the estimates by using the average rent increase for uncontrolled units in Metro Toronto for category 4.

Step 2—Distinction between movers and non-movers:

The Ministry of Housing rent survey provides good data on rent increases experienced in 1985 by those who did not move in the last 12 months. Estimates for movers must be derived by assumption.

Step 3—Past system/non-movers by type of rent increase:

The 1985 rent survey indicated the following distribution for rent increases:

Below guideline*	50.1 per cent;
About guideline**	24.3 per cent;
Above guideline***	25.6 per cent.

* up to 5.5 per cent

** 5.5 to 7.5 per cent

*** 7.5 per cent plus

The above-guideline category must be separated into the remaining three categories. To do this, it is assumed that the application rate to rent review is the same for movers and non-movers due to whole-building review and that the mobility rate is the same in controlled and uncontrolled stock. The number of illegal rents is then calculated as a residual of the 25.6 per cent receiving an above-guideline increase.

Given that 5.5 per cent of stock goes to rent review currently, and 13 per cent of rental stock is uncontrolled, this means that about 7.1 per cent of units with a non-moving tenant would receive illegal increases.

Step 4—Past systems/movers by type of rent increases:

The degree to which rents increase on vacancy is not known with any certainty. It is a more common practice, however, to give continuing tenants a lower rent increase.

Assumptions here are a 40 per cent reduction in the proportion receiving below-guideline increases, with half of these now getting guideline increases and half illegal increases, and that 20 per cent of units that would have got the guideline had tenant turnover not occurred now get illegal increases.

It should be stressed that no hard evidence exists on the volume of illegalities, so that other assumptions are plausible.

Step 5—Past system by type of rent increase, both movers and non-movers:

From the preceding steps, table 1 can be constructed with the additional knowledge that non-movers represent 68.9 per cent of units.

Table 1
Past System by Type of Rent Increase

	Non-Movers	Movers	Total
Below guideline	50.1	30.1	43.9
About guideline	24.3	29.4	25.9
Rent Review	5.5	5.5	5.5
Uncontrolled	13.0	13.0	13.0
Illegal	7.1	22.0	11.7
	100.0	100.0	100.0

Step 6—Present system/non-movers by type of rent increase:

We know that the volume of rent review coverage and the relative supply of new units did not change substantially during this period. If we can assume that the volume of illegal activity also did not change then the total of increase at or below the guideline would be unchanged.

While the total at or below the guideline may be unchanged, there is reason to suspect that, given the lower guideline, more of these increases would be equal to the guideline rather than below the guideline. In that the rent survey data groups increases between 2.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent, the average of this category is four per cent. Accordingly, half of this category is now assigned to the guideline increase category, while the other half remains below guideline.

Step 7—Present system/movers by type of rent increase:

The methodology outlined in step 4 is applied to the estimates in step 6 to produce estimates of the distribution of increases for movers.

Step 8—Present system by type of rent increase, both movers and non-movers:

Using the same method as in step 5, table 2 can be constructed:

Table 2
Present System by Type of Rent Increase

	Non-Movers	Movers	Total
Below guideline	40.8	24.4	35.7
About guideline	33.6	35.1	34.1
Rent Review	5.5	5.5	5.5
Uncontrolled	13.0	13.0	13.0
Illegal	7.1	22.0	11.7
	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Step 9—Future system/non-movers by type of rent increase:

Two major features of the new system must be incorporated into rent estimates: control of post-1975 buildings eliminates the uncontrolled category, and introduction of the rent registry will eliminate the illegal rent category. Assumptions must be made on the allocation of these disappearing categories among the remaining three types.

Previously uncontrolled stock is to be allocated half to about guideline and half to rent review. This reflects the fact that it takes five to six years to reach economic rent and 11 years of rent review have passed (i.e., about half of post-1975 buildings will gain nothing from the economic loss provisions). Of the half not going to rent review, it is assumed that none take less than the

guideline. The overpricing of some post-1975 units in the current market and the draw of home ownership options suggests a possible overestimation of rent increases in this group.

Previously illegal stock is assumed to be three quarters at guideline and one quarter to rent review (i.e., in about one case in four the landlord could have justified an above-guideline increase). This yields estimates for future rent increases. It does not include the impact of the lowering of illegal rents, nor rebates which have been averaging close to \$950, or over two months of the average rent.

These adjustments were applied to the same rent distribution base as outlined for steps 3 to 5.

Step 10—Future system/movers by type of rent increase:

The same method of allocating the previously uncontrolled and previously illegal units as described in step 9 was applied to movers.

Step 11—Future system by type of rent increase, both movers and non-movers:

Table 3 presents the results from using the cumulative methodology outlined above:

Table 3
Future System by Type of Rent Increase

	Non-Movers	Movers	Total
Below guideline	50.1	30.1	43.9
About guideline	36.1	52.4	41.1
Rent Review	13.8	17.5	15.0
Uncontrolled	0	0	0
Illegal	0	0	0
	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Step 12—Rent increases within categories:

(a) Below guideline

Past system (based on rent survey using mid-ranges)

$$\begin{aligned}
 1/5 \text{ at } 0\% &= 0.0 \\
 2/5 \text{ at } 1\% &= 0.4 \\
 2/5 \text{ at } 4\% &= 1.6 \\
 &\underline{2.0\%}
 \end{aligned}$$

Present system (drop units formerly between 4.0 and 5.5 per cent)

$$\begin{aligned}
 1/4 \text{ at } 0\% &= 0.0 \\
 1/2 \text{ at } 1\% &= 0.5 \\
 1/4 \text{ at } 3\% &= 1.2 \\
 &\underline{1.7\%}
 \end{aligned}$$

Future system (same as past system).

(b) About guideline:

Past system – 6.0%
 Present system – 4.0%
 Future system – 5.5%*

* guideline for 1987 expected in range from 5.0 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

(c) Rent review increases

Past system – 10.0% 1984-85
 Present system – 9.6% 1985-86
 Future system – 9.6% **

** assume same increase (assumption discussed below in step 14).

(d) Uncontrolled rent increases

Past system – 9.0% CMHC Toronto
 Present system – 9.0% CMHC Toronto
 Future system – 1/2 at or below guideline
 1/2 at market 9.0%

For half at or below guideline, see step 9. For half going to rent review, market increases on uncontrolled stock are currently less than rent awards made on currently controlled stock at rent review. Therefore, on average, the market will restrict increases to the lower amount.

(e) Illegal increases

Assume non-movers will tolerate illegal increases of five per cent above guideline, while 10 per cent above guideline is taken on vacancy. These assumptions are highly speculative.

An alternative assumption would place these values at 2.5 per cent and five per cent respectively. Such an estimate would include minor violations of the type not typically going for a rent rebate.

Step 13—Calculation of average rent increase:

Using the results on the distribution of units into types of increase from tables 1, 2 and 3 and the estimates in step 14, the results are:

	% units	% rent increase	contribution
Past system			
Below guideline	43.9	2.0	0.878
About guideline	25.9	6.0	1.554
Rent review	5.5	10.0	0.550
Uncontrolled	13.0	9.0	1.170
Illegal—non-movers	4.9	11.0	0.539
–movers	6.8	16.0	1.088
			<u>5.779</u>

	% units	% rent increase	contribution
Present system			
Below guideline	35.7	1.7	0.607
About guideline	34.1	4.0	1.364
Rent Review	5.5	9.6	0.528
Uncontrolled	13.0	9.0	1.170
Illegal—non-movers	4.9	9.0	0.441
–movers	6.8	14.0	0.952
			<u>5.062</u>

	% units	% rent increase	contribution
Future system			
Below guideline	43.9	2.0	0.878
About guideline	41.1	5.5	2.261
Rent Review			
pre 1976	8.5	9.6	0.816
post 1975	6.5	9.0	0.585
			<u>4.540</u>

Summary	Average rent increase	\$ millions*
Past	5.8%	—
Present	5.1%	–\$40M
Future	4.5%	–\$69M

* Based on average rent October 1985 = \$465/month.

Using the alternative assumption for the magnitude of the average illegal rent increase (see step 12 (e)), the summary numbers become:

	Average rent increase	\$ millions*
Past	5.3%	—
Present	4.6%	–\$40M
Future	4.5%	–\$43M

Step 14—Impacts at whole-building review:

The estimates to this point assume a neutral impact from the changes to the rules governing whole-building rent reviews. It is now time to test this assumption.

In order to explore this question, each component of rent review is examined. Because treatment at whole-building review was not changed by the 1985 amendments, only the future system represents a change to be analysed.

(a) Operating costs:

In the past two years the operating cost increases awarded at rent review were 5.0 per cent and 4.1 per cent. The average performance over these years will be about the same as the operating formula.

Net impact: None.

(b) Capital expenditures:

There are three changes of significant economic consequence.

(i) The management and administrative allow-

ance will range between two per cent and 15 per cent, with most expenditures being 7.5 per cent of capital value. The impact of capital expenditures on the average rent review increase was 2.8 per cent in 1985-86. Increasing these awards by 7.5 per cent would raise the average rent review award by 0.2 per cent. If 17 per cent of all units go to rent review, this translates into a plus 0.034 per cent impact on overall rents.

(ii) The 80 per cent rollback will reduce the net increase associated with capital expenditures. The degree to which this will be so depends on the average price increase for the capital item. If the increase is, on average, 50 per cent, then the net impact on units at review would be a 1.3 per cent reduction. Taking 17 per cent of this amount yields the impact by overall rents of minus 0.221 per cent. Because of the August 1, 1985, start date for initial expenditures, it will be several years before this provision has substantial impact.

(iii) Treating major renovations as capital expenditures rather than as new units will considerably reduce rent increases associated with luxury conversion. If the average rent saving was 20 per cent on 5,000 units a year, then the impact on overall rents would be minus 0.100 per cent.

Net impact: +0.034
 -0.221
 -0.100

 -0.287%

(c) Financing payments:

(i) The major change here is the introduction of the costs-no-longer-borne provision. The importance of this over time depends on the volatility of interest rates.

If the average mortgage is \$16,000 a unit and the range of interest rate changes is three per cent, this would produce a maximum estimate of a \$40 a month saving, or minus 8.6 per cent on the average rent. Adjusting for the fact that interest rates are down only half the time and the reduction may average only half the maximum, this translates to a yearly impact of minus 2.15 per cent on rent review decisions involving cost-no-longer-borne. The volume of units attaining rent review decisions on financial costs may be up to 10 per cent in any year but may be as low as one per cent. If five per cent is chosen, then the impact on overall rents is minus 0.1075 per cent. Because of the August 1, 1985, start date on the initial mortgage, full impact of this provision will occur over the next several years.

The only other change of significance involves

the pass-through related to ARP and GPM. Because the impact of the direct increase in financing cost is offset by the reduction in financial loss and economic loss awards, the net impact may be negligible.

Net impact: -0.108%

(d) Financial loss:

Financial loss on pre-1976 buildings will be affected by two provisions.

(i) Interest will now be paid on loans to cover financial losses. If the average loss is 10 per cent of rents and the interest rate is 10 per cent, then there will be a one per cent impact on units affected. At present, half of units going to rent review have a financial loss; that is, about three per cent of all units. Hence the impact on overall rents would be plus 0.030 per cent.

(ii) Dropping the five year phase-in and using only the five per cent cap will mean that financial loss awards will be temporarily higher in about half of all cases. The word "temporarily" is important because in both cases the full amount of the loss is phased out.

Using the 10 per cent loss example:

Old system 5% or 5-year caps	New system 5% cap only	Difference new-old
2%	5%	+3%
2%	5%	+3%
2%	0	-2%
2%	0	-2%
2%	0	-2%
net =		0+

While in the long term there is no impact on average rent increases, there is a short-term impact (3.0×0.3) of plus 0.090% in the first year.

Net impact: +0.030% long term

(e) Economic loss:

Under the current system, the post-1975 units are limited only by the market. Under the new system, these units will be limited by both the market and by rent review restrictions on both return and phase-in. Accordingly, rent increases can only be lower than at present. (See step 12(c) above.)

(f) Chronically depressed rents:

Only about two per cent of units will be eligible. Of these, about 70 per cent will get two per cent, while the other 30 per cent of units will get an average of 10 per cent on turnover. So the impact on overall rents will be:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2.0 \times 0.014 = 0.028 \\
 10.0 \times 0.006 = 0.060 \\
 \hline
 +0.088\%
 \end{array}$$

(g) Hardship:

The award of hardship in the last year of financial loss phase-out, rather than the next year, has no net impact on the total increase in the two years considered together.

Net impact: None.

(h) Maintenance and services:

The inclusion of cuts in services and facilities and introduction of the maintenance board provisions will both reduce rent increases. The extent of these effects is impossible to gauge at this time.

Net impact: Lower rent increases.

(i) Equalization:

Equalization does not affect the total revenue collected from a project.

Net impact: None.

(j) Key money:

Making key money illegal will reduce the cost of access to units. The net impact is impossible to gauge at this time.

Summary of net impacts on	
Overall average rent increase	%
Operating allowance	0.000
Capital expenditures	-0.287
Financing payments	-0.108
Financial loss	+0.030
Chronically depressed rents	+0.088
	-0.277

This would lower the average future system rent increase to 4.3 per cent and result in a long-term saving between \$59 million and \$85 million versus the past system and between \$19 million and \$45 million versus the current system.

Because of the delays inherent in both the capital expenditure rollback and the financing-costs-no-longer-borne provisions and to the initial-year impact of dropping the five-year rule on building purchase, the first-year impact differs from the long term. Each of these increases rents in the short run, magnitudes being:

Capital rollback delay	+0.221
Costs-no-longer-borne delay	+0.108
Initial effect of dropping five-year rule	+0.090
	+0.419
Deduct rent review impacts	-0.277
Net initial impact	+0.142

At the high illegal rent estimate this would produce the following comparisons for the short term:

	%	\$ million
Past	5.8	-
Present	5.1	-\$40M
Future	4.7	-\$61M

And at the low illegal rent estimate:

Short-term impact	%	\$ million
Past	5.3	-
Present	4.6	-\$40M
Future	4.7	-\$35M

The long-term impact is as indicated above:

Long-term impact		
High estimate	%	\$ million
Past	5.8	-
Present	5.1	-\$40M
Future	4.3	-\$85M

Long-term impact		
Low estimate	%	\$ million
Past	5.3	-
Present	4.6	-\$40M
Future	4.3	-\$59M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

136. Mr. Harris: Would the Minister of the Environment provide the number of claims filed under the provision of part IX of the Environmental Protection Act (spills bill) since May 16, 1986, the amounts of the claims and the types of spills? [Tabled May 21, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Two claims (applications for compensation) in accordance with section 91 of the Environmental Protection Act were filed since May 16, 1986.

Compensation was authorized by the Environmental Compensation Corp. for one application in the amount of \$4,187.23. This application was the result of a spill of fuel oil which caused a single motor vehicle accident.

The other application was deemed not to relate to a spill as defined in the Environmental Protection Act but rather to an event that occurred indoors.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

137. Mr. Andrews: Would the Minister of Health table all existing commitments for capital

expenditures by hospital, type of commitment, amount and date committed? [Tabled May 26, 1987]

See sessional paper 144.

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

153. Mr. Treleaven: Would the Minister of Community and Social Services provide documentation outlining in detail his ministry's policy regarding the testing for acquired immune deficiency syndrome of all present residents of and all individuals seeking admission to any regional facility for developmentally handicapped in Ontario? [Tabled June 1, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The following is my ministry's policy regarding the testing for acquired immune deficiency syndrome of all present residents of and all individuals seeking admission to any regional facility for developmentally handicapped persons in Ontario.

Presently my ministry does not have mandatory testing of any resident of a facility or for those who seek admission to a facility for the developmentally handicapped in Ontario.

To carry out a test on an adult for AIDS (HIV* antibody test), we recommend informed consent from the individual concerned.

If the person is a minor (under 16), or if the person is declared incompetent, we recommend informed consent for a parent or guardian.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is the attending physician who recommends when a test for HIV antibody should be carried out on an individual based on medical reasons.

*human immunodeficiency virus

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

155. Mr. Martel: Would the Minister of Labour table in the House the names and positions of the 200 people mentioned in the minister's answer in the Legislature on May 27 and indicate where they are located? Also for the 23-month period mentioned in his answer, would he table the names and positions of those employees who have left the occupational health and safety division during this period? [Tabled June 1, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The honourable member has asked to be furnished with detailed personnel information regarding the names, positions and locations of the 200 people referred to by the minister on May 27, 1987, and the number of employees who have left the occupational health and safety division in the past two years.

The government does not maintain such a list in a form that would be readily retrievable. The amount of staff time and the cost involved in compiling an answer to this question would be extensive and cannot be justified.

KIMBERLY-CLARK OF CANADA LTD.

157. Mr. Pierce: Would the acting Minister of Northern Development and Mines indicate what was discussed and the results of his parliamentary assistant's meeting on December 16, 1986, with officials of Kimberly-Clark? Also, would the minister table any documentation discussed at or pertaining to the December 16, 1986, meeting? [Tabled June 2, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Following is the ministry's response to this question.

There was no parliamentary assistant to the acting Minister of Ministry of Northern Development and Mines on December 16, 1986.

The meeting in Geraldton on December 16, 1986, chaired by the Honourable Hugh O'Neil, was held to provide an opportunity for officials of Kimberly-Clark, union representatives and municipal officials to discuss the situation and outlook for the company's woodlands operations and to consider ways to ensure a more effective process of communication among those involved.

René Fontaine also attended the meeting, as did a number of provincial officials.

A useful exchange of views took place, and the company and its union were made aware of the need to ensure that municipal officials and the general public were kept informed and undertook to see how this might be improved.

The provincial government brought no documents to this meeting, and no other documents were distributed.

POLICE COMMISSIONS

161. Mr. Sterling: Would the Solicitor General provide a list of all police commissions in Ontario, including the number of positions on each commission; the name of each commissioner presently sitting on the commissions, including term of appointment; all vacancies and their respective commissions? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Keyes: A list of boards of commissioners of police for the province of Ontario is attached. Municipal appointees are identified as such or by their more specific title. The terms of appointment have been provided for provincial appointees unless that term is indefi-

nite. In the latter case, they are identified as provincial appointees.

The list was current as of June 3, 1987. Vacancies for provincial positions as of that date

existed in the Deep River, Essex, Gananoque, Kenora, Kincardine, New Liskeard, Orillia, Ottawa, Pembroke (two), Petrolia, Sandwich West and Stratford boards.

**Members,
Boards of Commissioners of Police
Province of Ontario**

Alexandria, town	Mr. Alexander MacDonald	June 21/86-June 20/87
(chairman)	Mr. Gerard G. Roy	Oct. 1/86-Sept. 30/87
Amherstburg, town	Mayor J. P. Touchette	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Richard D. Thrasher	Jan. 1/87-Dec. 31/87
	Ms. Roberta D. Piper	Sept. 12/86-Sept. 11/88
	Mayor William Gibb	municipal appointee
	Mr. Rocco Pietrangelo	July 24/86-July 23/88
	Mrs. Rose Kelly	municipal appointee
Barrie, city	Ms. Margaret M. Kelly	Nov. 26/86-Nov. 25/88
	Mr. Donald Norman Campbell	June 6/86-June 5/88
	Mr. Dorian Parker	(alderman)
(chairman)	Mayor Ross Archer	municipal appointee
Belleville, city	Judge H. Ward Allen	provincial appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Charles A. Misener	Dec. 1/86-Nov. 30/88
	Mr. Robert E. Lee	March 21/86-March 20/88
	Mrs. Theresa A. Boyd	June 6/86-June 5/88
	Mayor George Zegouras	municipal appointee
	Alderman J. B. Corke	municipal appointee
Brantford, city	Judge E. O. Fanjoy	provincial appointee
(chairman)	Ms. Carol Ann Westbrooke	Feb. 19/86-Feb. 18/88
	Mr. B. Paul Randorf	March 1/87-Feb. 28/88
	Mr. Max Sherman	(alderman)
	Mayor David Neumann	municipal appointee
Brockville, city	Mrs. Susan B. Stirling	May 22/86-May 21/88
	Mr. Frank Rogers	July 17/86-July 16/88
	Ms. Joan F. Patterson	June 26/86-June 25/88
(chairman)	Mr. William Watson	municipal appointee
Carleton place, town	Mayor Stephen J. Clark	municipal appointee
	Mr. C. Ormond Giles	municipal appointee
	Mr. Ralph H. Shaw	Jan. 22/87-Jan. 21/89
	Mayor Melba J. Barker	municipal appointee
	Mrs. Hilda Docker	March 12/87-March 11/89
	Mr. David G. Kirkpatrick	Nov. 1/85-Oct. 31/87
Chatham, city	Mr. Robert P. Myers	Dec. 12/85-Dec. 11/87
(chairman)	Mrs. Virginia McGeorge	April 24/86-April 23/88
	Mr. Douglas G. Sulman	(alderman)
	Mayor William Erickson	municipal appointee
	Mr. Dennis H. Asher	Nov. 1/85-Oct. 31/87
Cornwall, city	Ms. Loraine Robertson	March 1/86-Feb. 29/88
(chairman)	Mr. Ronald Joseph Adams	July 24/86-July 23/88
	Mr. Lindy Latour	June 12/85-June 11/87
	Mr. Guy Leger	(alderman)
	Mayor Brian Lynch	municipal appointee
Deep River, town	Mayor Lyall V. Smith	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Allan Valiquette	Jan. 14/87-Jan. 13/88

Dresden, town	Mr. Timothy D. Mathany	Dec. 21/86-Dec. 20/88
(chairman)	Mrs. Nancy Hind	Jan. 16/86-Jan. 15/88
Durham, town	Mayor Leslie Hawgood	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mayor Floyd Lawrence	municipal appointee
	Mr. Kenneth L. Macdonald	Jan. 16/86-Jan. 15/88
Durham region	Mr. Gordon MacLean	March 12/87-March 11/89
	Mr. Jerry Taylor	(regional councillor)
(chairman)	Mr. Leslie S. MacDonald	May 1/87-April 30/89
	Ms. Gwendolyn Mowbray	Jan. 22/87-Jan. 21/89
Elliot Lake, town	Mr. R. A. Attersley	(regional councillor)
(chairman)	Judge Joseph Kelly	provincial appointee
	Mrs. Catharine Dixon	July 31/86-July 30/87
	Mr. Wendell Farquhar	Aug. 28/86-Aug. 27/88
	Ms. Joanne F. Gagnon-Main	March 21/86-March 20/88
	Mayor Roger Taylor	municipal appointee
Essex, town	Mr. Brian Cardy	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Clifford Wm. Cox	July 1/85-June 30/87
	Mr. Thomas R. Robson	Dec. 19/86-Dec. 18/88
	Mr. James Shaheen	(councillor)
Fort Frances, town	Mayor James MacPherson	municipal appointee
	Judge Barton B. Trembley	provincial appointee
(chairman)	Ms. Patricia J. Reid	May 9/86-May 8/88
	Mr. Mark Kowalchuk	Feb. 12/87-Feb. 11/89
	Mr. Deane G. Cunningham	(alderman)
Gananoque, town	Mayor Dick Lyons	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Larry L. Steacy	Feb. 2/85-Feb. 1/87
	Mr. William R. Deir	May 9/86-May 8/88
Gloucester, city	Mayor Fred R. Delaney Jr.	municipal appointee
	Mr. Jacques G. Potvin	Sept. 12/86-Sept. 11/88
	Brig.-Gen. Robt. G. Heitshu	March 1/86-Feb. 29/88
	Mayor Harry Allen	municipal appointee
	Mr. Eugene Bellemare	(alderman)
Goderich, town	Mrs. Joanne Marie Tobin	March 12/87-March 11/89
(chairman)	Mr. David Gower	Feb. 14/87-Feb. 13/88
	Mayor Eileen Palmer	municipal appointee
Guelph, city	Mr. H. Bruce Erskine	Feb. 20/87-Feb. 19/89
	Mr. Norman W. Jary	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mrs. Anne L. Dmetriuc	Jan. 14/87-Jan. 13/89
	Mr. William MacKinnon	June 2/86-June 1/88
Haldimand-Norfolk region	Mayor John Counsell	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Brian E. Hadfield	Jan. 2/87-Jan. 1/88
	Mr. Orval Shortt	(regional councillor)
	Mr. Gary Mawhiney	Feb. 19/86-Feb. 18/88
	Mr. Robert Causyn	(regional councillor)
Halton region	Hon. W. W. Leach	provincial appointee
	Mr. David H. Wase	April 1/87-March 31/88
(chairman)	Judge Joseph C. Scime	provincial appointee
	Mr. James D. Watson	Jan. 16/86-Jan. 15/88
Hamilton-Wentworth region	Ms. Karen Thompson	April 16/87-April 15/89
(chairman)	Mr. Fred Oliver	(regional councillor)
	Mr. James Grieve	(regional councillor)
	Judge Gordon J. Sullivan	provincial appointee
	Mrs. Virginia L. Cott	Dec. 5/85-Dec. 4/87
	Mr. Wm. McCulloch	(regional councillor)
	Mr. James Robb	(regional councillor)
	Mr. Alexander Mouriopoulos	Jan. 9/86-Jan. 8/88

Hanover, town	Mrs. Marilyn R. Schinbein	Jan. 16/86-Jan. 15/88
(chairman)	Mr. C. A. (Glen) Rawson	May 16/86-May 15/88
	Mayor Ernest Duncan	municipal appointee
	Mr. Bev Struke	(alderman)
Hawkesbury, town	Mr. Alred L. Morrow	April 3/87-April 2/89
(chairman)	Mayor Lucien Berniquez	municipal appointee
	Mr. Michel Bonin	May 15/86-May 14/88
Innisfil, township	Mr. Rheaume Champagne	Jan. 24/87-Jan. 23/89
(chairman)	Ms. Coralee Young	March 21/86-March 20/88
	Mr. Fred Utton	Jan. 23/87-Jan. 22/88
	Reeve Grant Andrade	municipal appointee
	Mr. Ross Turner	municipal appointee
	Mr. Thomas N. Sturge	March 21/86-March 20/88
Kenora, town	Mr. Cecil L. Poirier	May 15/86-May 14/88
(chairman)	Mayor Kelvin Winkler	municipal appointee
	Mr. Ralph D. Mosher	(councillor)
	Mr. Louis D. Seymour	May 22/86-May 21/88
Kincardine, town	Mr. William Babson	(councillor)
(chairman)	Mayor Charles W. Mann	municipal appointee
	Ms. Bette G. Tusz	Nov. 13/86-Nov. 12/88
	Mr. John F. Kirby	June 2/86-June 1/88
Kingston, city	Judge Alan R. Campbell	provincial appointee
	Mr. Yuri Tarnowecky	March 1/86-Feb. 29/88
(chairman)	Mr. Kenneth Matthews	(alderman)
	Mayor John P. Gerretsen	municipal appointee
	Ms. Judith M. MacKenzie	Jan. 30/86-Jan. 29/88
Kingsville, town	Mayor Jerry Pickard	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. George B. Stomp	May 15/86-May 14/88
	Mr. Karl G. Melinz	Jan. 24/87-July 23/87
Kirkland Lake, town	Mr. Sean J. O'Connor	Feb. 19/86-Feb. 18/88
	Mr. William J. Graham	March 1/87-Feb. 29/88
	Mrs. Elizabeth A. Sandrin	March 1/87-Feb. 29/88
(chairman)	Mr. William G. Taylor	(councillor)
	Mayor Joe Mavrinac	municipal appointee
Leamington, town	Mayor John Penner	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Sterling A. Welch	Jan. 24/87-Jan. 23/88
	Mr. Don Nicholson	(councillor)
	Mr. Victor Gabriele	Nov. 1/85-Oct. 31/87
Listowel, town	Mayor E. William Jones	municipal appointee
	Ms. Marlene Hemingway	June 5/87-June 4/89
	Mr. David A. Kilberg	Jan. 3/87-Jan. 2/88
	Mr. Glen W. Thompson	May 29/87-May 28/87
	Mr. Harold E. Perkin	municipal appointee
London, city	Mr. John R. Lisowski	Dec. 12/85-Dec. 11/87
	Ms. Eileen E. Gillese	March 1/86-Feb. 29/88
	Mr. Orlando Zamprogna	(alderman)
(chairman)	Mayor Thomas C. Gosnall	municipal appointee
Meaford, town	Mr. Robert G. Robarts	March 14/87-March 13/88
	Mr. Dave Pelling	(councillor)
	Mr. Melvin J. Snider	Sept. 12/86-Sept. 11/88
	Mr. Garnet Bowins	Sept. 12/86-Sept. 11/88
(chairman)	Mayor Gordon Crapper	municipal appointee
Metropolitan Toronto	Mrs. Betty Wirkkunen	Sept. 12/86-Sept. 11/88
	Mr. Roy Williams	Feb. 12/87-Feb. 11/90
(chairman)	Ms. N. Jane Pepino	March 8/85-March 7/88
	Mr. Clare W. Westcott	Feb. 24/85-Feb. 23/88

	Mr. C. Dennis Flynn	(Metro chairman)
	Mr. Norman Gardner	(controller)
Michipicoten, township	Ms. Denise Connell	March 26/87-March 25/89
	Mr. George Clifford Varin	March 12/87-March 11/89
	Mr. Bernard Lawrenson	(councillor)
	Reeve Doug Woods	municipal appointee
	Mr. Harold W. Soderlund	Feb. 27/87-Feb. 26/88
Mitchell, town	Mayor Harold Jordan	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Wm. P. Ducklow	Jan. 22/87-Jan. 21/88
	Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Tubb	Jan. 28/87-Jan. 27/89
Nepean, city	Ms. Janette M. Berry	July 2/86-July 1/88
	Mr. Daniel Hugh McGuire	June 20/86-June 19/88
	Mr. Hugh R. McDonald	March 6/86-March 5/88
	Mr. Al Loney	(alderman)
(chairman)	Mayor Ben Franklin	municipal appointee
New Liskeard, town	Mayor Charles Caldwell	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Rheal Henry Menard	Feb. 5/87-Feb. 4/89
Niagara region	Mr. John R. Hanrahan	Jan. 16/86-Jan. 15/88
(chairman)	Mrs. Denise R. Taylor	Jan. 16/86-Jan. 15/88
	Mayor Bob Saracino	municipal appointee
	Mr. Wm. D. Dickson	(regional councillor)
	Mr. Robert F. Keighan	Jan. 16/86-Jan. 15/88
North Bay, city	Mr. Bernard R. Dorschner	June 6/86-June 5/88
(chairman)	Mr. George T. Valin	Feb. 16/86-Feb. 15/88
	Mr. R. F. Donnelly, QC	(alderman)
	Mayor Stanley Lawlor	municipal appointee
	Ms. Joyce B. Follis	Feb. 23/87-Feb. 22/89
Orangeville, town	Mayor Gordon Courtney	municipal appointee
	Mr. John M. Darrell	June 6/86-June 5/88
(chairman)	Mr. William Stutz	June 5/87-June 4/88
Orillia, city	Mrs. Mary E. Westlaken	Oct. 17/86-Oct. 16/88
(chairman)	Mr. Donald J. Crawford	June 1/85-May 31/87
	Mayor Ted Emond	municipal appointee
	Mr. Edwin B. Forman	June 2/86-June 1/88
Ottawa, city	Mrs. Mary G. Hegan	May 9/86-May 8/88
	Mr. Rob Quinn	(alderman)
(chairman)	Mayor James Durrell	municipal appointee
	Mr. David Hinson Hill	May 22/86-May 21/88
Owen Sound, city	Mayor Ovid Jackson	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Harold Van Wyck, QC	July 4/86-July 3/87
	Mr. Harry Henderson	(alderman)
	Ms. Ruth Lovell	Jan. 9/86-Jan. 8/88
	Mr. Glenn G. Hepburn	May 9/86-May 8/88
Paris, town	Judge E. O. Fanjoy	provincial appointee
	Mayor Jack Bawcutt	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Paul A. M. James	Jan. 2/87-Jan. 1/88
Peel region	Mr. R. F. Bean	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Ronald K. Webb, QC	June 17/85-June 16/87
	Mayor K. G. Whillans	municipal appointee
	Mr. A. Donald K. MacKenzie	Jan. 30/86-Jan. 29/88
	Mr. Miles Obradovich	Jan. 30/86-Jan. 29/88
Pembroke, city	Mr. Walter M. Ogilvie	March 23/85-March 22/87
(chairman)	Mayor Angus A. Campbell	municipal appointee
	Mr. Terance V. McCann	May 29/85-May 28/87
Peterborough, city	Mr. Paul Rexe	(alderman)
	Mayor Sylvia Sutherland	municipal appointee

(chairman)	Mr. Hugh F. Waddell	provincial appointee
	Mrs. Eileen M. McGregor	Jan. 30/86-Jan. 29/88
Petrolia, town	Mr. James Andrew Swanston	March 12/87-March 11/89
	Mrs. Patricia E. Gallivan	Feb. 5/87-Feb. 4/89
(chairman)	Mr. David R. Hewett	Feb. 19/86-Feb. 18/88
Picton, town	Mayor Marcel Beaubien	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. William M. Martin	Nov. 13/86-Nov. 12/88
	Mayor Charles Hepburn	municipal appointee
	Mrs. Maureen Finnegan	Oct. 30/86-Oct. 29/88
Port Elgin, town	Mayor Kenneth Dunlop	municipal appointee
	Mr. W. Kent Milroy	Nov. 13/86-Nov. 12/88
(chairman)	Mr. Carman J. Levie	June 12/85-June 11/87
Prescott, town	Mr. Frank Whiten	June 2/86-June 1/88
(chairman)	Mr. Donald F. Pender	June 13/86-June 12/87
	Mr. W. A. Kingston	(councillor)
	Mayor Sandra S. Lawn	municipal appointee
	Mrs. Anita Mayer	July 31/86-July 30/88
St. Thomas, city	Mr. Eric G. Lowe	Feb. 5/87-Feb. 4/89
	Mr. John Haazen	June 2/86-June 1/88
(chairman)	Mr. Scott F. Kennedy	(alderman)
	Mayor Janet Golding	municipal appointee
	Mrs. Anna Tanguay	Jan. 30/86-Jan. 29/88
Sandwich West, township	Judge J. P. McMahon	provincial appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Robert G. Krause	Jan. 2/85-Jan. 1/87
	Mr. Joseph L. Durocher	Feb. 5/87-Feb. 4/89
	Mr. Rick Boughner	(councillor)
	Reeve Vince Marcotte	municipal appointee
Sarnia, city	Ms. Joan Link-Mellon	Aug. 13/86-Aug. 12/88
	Alderman Wills Rawana	municipal appointee
	Mayor Merceil Saddy	municipal appointee
(vice-chairman)	Mr. John R. Lynn	Nov. 1/85-Oct. 31/87
(chairman)	Mr. Ken Burchill	Nov. 1/85-Oct. 31/87
Sarnia, township	Mr. James W. Dawson	Jan. 14/87-Jan. 13/89
	Ms. Sylvia L. Foreman	June 26/86-June 25/88
(chairman)	Mr. Ray Whitnall	municipal appointee
Sault Ste. Marie, city	Mr. Wm. M. Malpass	July 1/85-June 30/87
	Ms. Anne Valentine	March 21/86-March 20/88
	Mr. Mike Sanzosti	(alderman)
	Mayor Joe Fratesi	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Hugh L. Harris	March 1/87-Feb. 28/88
Smiths Falls, town	Mayor Laurance S. Lee	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Duncan J. Schoular	June 12/85-June 11/87
	Mrs. V. Ann Quigley	May 9/86-May 8/88
Southampton, town	Mayor Arthur C. Knechtel	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Kenneth Douglas Brown	Nov. 1/86-Oct. 31/87
	Mrs. Ruth Laurel White	Nov. 26/86-Nov. 25/88
Stratford, city	Judge J. A. Mullen	provincial appointee
	Dr. Donald S. Davis	Jan. 1/85-Dec. 31/86
(chairman)	Mr. William Russell	March 1/87-Feb. 28/88
	Mrs. Colleen Misener	(alderman)
	Mayor Ted Blowes	municipal appointee
Strathroy, town	Mr. Albert B. Soares	Nov. 26/86-Nov. 25/88
(chairman)	Mr. Bev E. Earley	(councillor)
	Mrs. Sally Graham	Jan. 14/87-Jan. 13/89
	Mr. Trevor John Nesbitt	March 29/87-March 28/88
	Dr. Thomas Wolder	municipal appointee

Sturgeon Falls, town	Dr. Roger Gervais	July 17/86-July 16/88
	Mayor Michel Decaen	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Brian Lafleche	(alderman)
	Judge L. Gratton	provincial appointee
	Dr. Jean Aubry	Nov. 1/85-Oct. 31/87
Sudbury region	Mrs. Mary M. J. Sirois	Nov. 13/86-Nov. 12/88
	Mr. Hubert D. Bray	May 9/86-May 8/88
	Mr. Gary D. Gauthier	Jan. 16/86-Jan. 15/88
	Mr. R. Parker	(regional councillor)
(chairman)	Mr. R. Symington	(regional councillor)
Thunder Bay, city	Mr. Wallace E. McDougall	June 12/85-June 11/87
(chairman)	Mr. Norris E. Badanai	May 9/86-May 8/88
	Mr. J. Andre Nicol	May 9/86-May 8/88
	Mr. Lawrence Timko	(alderman)
	Mayor Jack Masters	municipal appointee
Tilbury, town	Mayor Charles F. Carrick	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Allan H. McGuire	Aug. 20/86-Aug. 19/87
	Mr. Paul J. Belanger	Jan. 30/86-Jan. 29/88
Timmins, city	Mrs. Denise LaBelle	July 17/86-July 16/88
	Mr. Gary G. L. Bonney	May 15/86-May 14/88
(chairman)	Mr. Dennis Welin	(alderman)
	Mayor Victor M. Power	municipal appointee
	Mr. Jacques R. Chenier	Jan. 24/86-Jan. 23/88
Trenton, city	Mrs. Jean M. S. Hutchinson	Dec. 12/85-Dec. 11/87
	Mayor Neil Robertson	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mr. Robert J. Campney	Dec. 1/86-Nov. 30/87
Vanier, city	Mr. Marcel Provost	July 9/85-July 8/87
	Mayor Gisele Lalonde	municipal appointee
	Mr. Paul F. Lalonde	March 5/87-March 4/89
Walkerton, town	Mrs. Carol Barclay	Jan. 22/87-Jan. 21/89
(chairman)	Mayor Fraser Clark	municipal appointee
	Mr. James W. Bolden	June 5/87-June 4/89
Wallaceburg, town	Mr. Thomas P. Quinlan	Jan. 24/86-Jan. 23/88
	Mayor Donald Truan	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Mrs. Eleanor D. Fairhead	July 25/86-July 24/87
	Mr. Max Heath	municipal appointee
	Dr. Jack R. Slaney	Nov. 1/85-Oct. 31/87
Waterloo Region	Prov. Judge J.R. Kirkpatrick	provincial appointee
	Mr. John K. Bell	Dec. 5/85-Dec. 4/87
(chairman)	Mr. Gary Leadston	(regional councillor)
	Mayor Dominic V.P. Cardillo	municipal appointee
	Mrs. Kathleen M. Donovan	March 12/87-March 11/89
Windsor, city	Mrs. E. Patricia Alexander	May 9/86-May 8/88
	Mr. John Whiteside	March 1/87-Feb. 28/88
	Mr. Rick Limoges	municipal appointee
	Mayor David Burr	municipal appointee
(chairman)	Judge Joseph P. McMahon	provincial appointee
Wingham, town	Ms. Holly-Jane Keil	Nov. 13/86-Nov. 12/88
	Mr. Frederick E. McGee	Nov. 13/86-Nov. 12/88
	Mr. William R. Harris	(deputy reeve)
(chairman)	Mayor Jack Kopas	municipal appointee
	Mr. Jack Gillespie	July 25/86-July 24/87
Woodstock, city	Mayor Joe Pemder	municipal appointee
	Mr. David James Beatty	April 13/87-April 12/89
	Mr. Les Cook	(Alderman)
	Mr. Thomas W. Patience	Jan. 16/87-Jan. 15/88
	Mrs. Ruth Dorene Carter	Feb. 20/87-Feb. 19/89

York region (chairman)	Mr. Parbhat Kumar Sood Judge Donald Ross Shearer Mr. Eldred King Mayor Raymond Twinney Mrs. Margaret I. Smithyes	Nov. 13/86-Nov. 12/88 provincial appointee municipal appointee municipal appointee Jan. 30/86-Jan. 29/88
---------------------------	--	--

GOVERNMENT DRIVERS

162. Mr. McCague: Would the acting Chairman of the Management Board provide a list of all government drivers who were present at the Liberal conference at Lake Couchiching; a detailed cost breakdown of accommodation, food and entertainment incurred by the taxpayers

for the drivers at this conference? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Nixon: A list of the government drivers who were present at the Liberal conference at Lake Couchiching is attached, together with the costs incurred by the taxpayers for their accommodation, food and entertainment.

Ministry	Government Driver	Cost Accommodation	Meals	Entertainment	Total
Agriculture and Food	E. Datars	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Environment	P. Rupcic	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Financial Institutions	U. Vastopa	Nil	\$20.35	Nil	\$20.35
Tourism and Recreation	P. Murdock	Nil	\$36.73	Nil	\$36.73
Treasury and Economics	B. Wilson	\$44.00	\$16.00	Nil	\$60.00

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

167. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations provide details on what approvals were sought, the date they were given and any discussions that took place regarding the Ministry of Skills Development program to put brochures advertising the program for unemployed 15- to 24-year-olds in liquor stores in the province, and his comments on the appropriateness or propriety of such advertising? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The Liquor Control Board of Ontario gives access to Ontario government bodies and recognized charities wishing to display posters and brochures in LCBO outlets throughout Ontario on a monthly basis.

The LCBO communications department is responsible for approving requests for these displays and certain requirements are established for such approval. Display requests are only approved from Ontario government ministries, agencies, boards, commissions and organizations sponsored by the Ontario government or registered charities. Ontario-government-sponsored groups seeking displays must be

nonprofit organizations. In addition, display material must not carry any endorsements or advertising by profit-based companies or organizations.

This service is recognized as an excellent vehicle for disseminating important information about government programs, new legislation or major charitable campaigns.

On July 3, 1986, the Ministry of Skills Development contacted the LCBO communications department by telephone requesting display of the Futures program posters and brochures throughout the LCBO stores in October 1986. In that conversation a description of the program and its aims in providing opportunities for youth employment was given. As per the LCBO policy, a formal request in writing was asked for, along with samples of both the posters and brochures to be displayed. The request and samples were received on July 9, 1986, and official approval was given in writing the same day for distribution of the posters and brochures in October 1986.

It is the LCBO's policy to assist the other government ministries in disseminating important information to the public about government programs and initiatives, such as employment

opportunities for youth. Distribution through the LCBO stores allowed the Futures program to reach most of its target group, i.e., 19 to 24 years of age.

Distribution through the LCBO stores also provided a means of reaching parents interested in employment opportunities for their sons and daughters. Given these facts, and the concern we all share for the employment of our young people, the LCBO deemed approval of the Futures posters and brochures to be most appropriate.

ST. CATHARINES HELP CENTRE

169. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Skills Development provide the date of his conversation with the director of the St. Catharines Help Centre and provide a copy of his schedule for that day showing why he could not have visited the help centre in person? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The date of my conversation with the director of the St. Catharines Help Centre was July 22, 1986. My schedule for that date could not include a visit to the help centre; however, I would be pleased to visit it at an appropriate time in the future.

FUTURES PROGRAM

172. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Skills Development provide details of any memos sent to Futures delivery agents regarding last summer's initial decision by Revenue Canada to disentitle Futures participants from unemployment insurance benefits? Specifically, were there any orders to those agents not to hand over names of young people in the program until

the matter was resolved and if not, given the minister's strong denunciation of the decision, why not? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: On August 21, 1986, officials of the Ontario government and representatives of Revenue Canada met to discuss the latter's recent ruling that Futures participants were not eligible for unemployment insurance/Canada pension plan benefits. As a result of this meeting, Revenue Canada promised an immediate review of the ruling and a decision on or before August 29, 1986.

All Futures offices were notified of these developments and were instructed to (1) continue to deduct UI/CPP for participants; (2) comply with any requests from Revenue Canada to prepare lists of Futures participants for submission to federal authorities on August 29, 1986, or whatever final date was established in the event submission should be necessary.

On August 29, 1986, Revenue Canada reversed its earlier ruling and the submission of lists of Futures participants became unnecessary.

HELP CENTRES

174. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Skills Development provide information on the help centres directors spoken to during the operational review; specifically, which ones, the dates and the time spent at each interview? Could he also provide the cost of the review and what part of the budget it came from? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The information requested on the operational review of the Ontario help centres is as follows:

Centres Contacted	Director/Co-ordinator	Date	Duration
1. St. Catharines	Roxanne Felice 1/2 day was spent with a counsellor, A. Thompson, before the phone interview with the director	Dec. 2, 1986	1 hour (phone)
2. Hamilton	Jon Buttrum	Dec. 9, 1986	1 day
3. Brantford	Carol Houssar	Dec. 11, 1986	1 day
4. COSTI IAS	Luisa Mazzuka	Dec. 12, 1986	1 day
5. COSTI York	Albert Chan	Dec. 18, 1986	2 hours

The cost of the review was \$15,000 and charged against the budget of the ministry's policy and development division, planning and development group.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

177. Mr. Sterling: Would the Minister of Transportation and Communications indicate the commitment of his government to the building of

Highway 416, once all approvals for a route have been completed; would the minister include the timing, the scope of the project (two-lane or four-lane), and the financial commitment of his government? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The Ministry of Transportation and Communications has not scheduled the construction of Highway 416 pending approval of the environmental assessment report for the project.

The project would see the construction of four lanes progressing southerly from the Ottawa Queensway to connect with the existing two lanes west of Manotick. A total of 10 contracts would require eight to 10 years to complete and the estimated cost is \$100 million.

Following the environmental approval it could require up to four years before construction can commence in order to complete the contract pre-engineering activities such as surveys, design, property acquisition and road closings.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

179. Mr. Cousens: Would the Minister of Community and Social Services give a complete listing of all agencies that had not received approval for their 1986-87 budget year by December 31, 1986, and how much money was outstanding to these agencies? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: In reply to the request for a complete listing of all agencies that had not received budget approval for 1986-87 by December 31, 1986, it would be very difficult to obtain this type of listing. My ministry funds approximately 1,800 transfer payment agencies. Many of these agencies, if not all of them, submit annual budgetary requests for additional resources which are well beyond the capacity of the ministry to fund. While it is the ministry's objective to obtain timely resolution of budgetary negotiations, it is possible that under certain circumstances the two parties cannot agree and ministry approval is deferred pending mutual agreement.

A point of clarification is that agency budgets have an "evergreen" clause that allows continuous cash payment whether or not the new budget is approved. In effect, the cash flow from my ministry continues at the rate specified in the expiring agreement until such time as a new budget is approved and the cash flow is adjusted to the new rate.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

193. Mr. Pierce: Would the acting Minister of

Northern Development and Mines provide a list of the recommendations made by the northern development councils? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

See sessional paper 145.

195. Mr. Pierce: Would the acting Minister of Northern Development and Mines provide a list of the total number of public meetings held by each northern development council? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The ministry's response to the above question is as follows:

Kenora Rainy River Northern Development Council: announced June 16, 1986; public meetings, 0; NDC agricultural committee, 1.

Thunder Bay Area Northern Development Council: announced May 14, 1986; public meetings, 2; NDC agricultural committee, 1.

Superior North Northern Development Council: announced June 16, 1986; public meetings, 6; NDC agricultural committee, 0.

Algoma Manitoulin Northern Development Council: announced July 8, 1986; public meetings, 0; NDC agricultural committee, 2.

Cochrane and Area Northern Development Council: announced July 31, 1986; public meetings, 0; NDC agricultural committee, 1.

Timiskaming and Area Northern Development Council: announced July 30, 1986; public meetings, 0; NDC agricultural committee, 2.

Sudbury Region Northern Development Council: announced November 18, 1986; public meetings, 0; NDC agricultural committee, 0.

Nipissing and Area Northern Development Council: announced November 18, 1986; public meetings, 0; NDC agricultural committee, 1.

Parry Sound and Area Northern Development Council: announced November 19, 1986; public meetings, 0; NDC agricultural committee, 1.

GOVERNMENT PARKING

202. Mr. McLean: Would the acting Minister of Government Services provide the House with the number of parking spaces used by members and staff at Queen's Park buildings?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The total number of parking spaces used by members and staff at Queen's Park buildings is 1,620. The boundaries of the Queen's Park area are Wellesley Street on the north, Yonge Street on the east, College Street on the south and Queen's Park Crescent on the west.

INTERIM ANSWERS

124. Mr. Allen: Hon. Mr. Conway—Additional time is required to answer this question.

An answer will be forthcoming on or before June 29, 1987.

138. Mr. Gillies: Hon. Mr. Bradley—The ministry requires additional time to answer this question. Our answer will be available on or before June 30, 1987.

142 to 147. Mr. Runciman: Hon. Mr. Kwinter—I have referred this inquiry to the business practices division. They have advised me that more time is required to fully respond to the question. A final response will be available by July 3, 1987.

148 to 151. Mr. Sterling: Hon. Mr. Conway—The ministry requires additional time to provide the information required by these questions. The answers should be available on or about August 31, 1987.

182. Mr. McClellan: Hon. Mr. Wrye—

Additional time is required to respond to this question. A final answer will be available for tabling on or around July 3, 1987.

SUPPLEMENTARY INTERIM ANSWER

23 and 69. Mr. McLean: See sessional paper 137.

INTERIM RESPONSE TO PETITION

Sessional paper 73, re a reduction in the provincial sales tax and the provincial share of personal income tax.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: In replying to this petition we would require more time in which to prepare our answer and would therefore like to advise that our response would be ready for tabling in the House on or about July 2.

CONTENTS

Monday, June 22, 1987

Members' statements

South Carleton High School band , Mr. Sterling	1531
Nuclear arms free zone , Mr. R. F. Johnston	1531
Village of Arkona , Mr. D. W. Smith	1531
Polio Plus program , Mr. Barlow	1532
Pension benefits , Mr. Morin-Strom	1532
Workers' Compensation Board , Mr. O'Connor	1532
Ontario Lottery Corp. , Mr. Laughren	1532

Statement by the ministry

Federal tax reform proposals , Hon. Mr. Nixon	1533
--	------

Responses

Federal tax reform proposals , Mr. Grossman, Mr. Harris, Mr. Laughren, Mr. Rae	1534
---	------

Oral questions

Constitutional accord , Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1536
Urban Transportation Development Corp. , Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Fulton	1537
Auto pact , Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1538
Automobile insurance , Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Kwinter, Mr. Swart	1539
Urban Transportation Development Corp. , Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Fulton	1540
Speech pathologists , Mr. Foulds, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1540
Human rights , Mr. O'Connor, Hon. Mr. Scott	1541
Police pursuits , Ms. Bryden, Hon. Mr. Keyes	1541
Pit bull terriers , Mr. Brandt, Hon. Mr. Keyes	1542
Workers' compensation , Mr. McClellan, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1542
Occupational health and safety , Mr. Gillies, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1543
Rent regulation , Mr. Grande, Hon. Mr. Curling, Mr. McFadden	1544
Highway maintenance , Mr. Hayes, Hon. Mr. Fulton	1544
Transit services , Mr. Cousens, Hon. Mr. Fulton	1545
Firefighting equipment , Mr. Wildman, Hon. Mr. Keyes	1545
Hazardous waste treatment facility , Mr. Andrewes, Hon. Mr. Bradley	1546
Film industry , Mr. Allen, Hon. Ms. Munro	1546

Reports by committees

Standing committee on resources development , Mr. Laughren, adjourned	1547
Standing committee on finance and economic affairs , Mr. D. R. Cooke, tabled	1547

First readings

Election Amendment Act , Bill 89, Mr. Cousens, agreed to	1548
Ministry of Colleges and Universities Amendment Act , Bill 90, Mr. Warner, agreed to	1548

Second reading

Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act , Bill 79, Hon. Mr. Wrye, Mr. Martel, Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Gillies, Mr. J. M. Johnson, Mr. Sterling, agreed to	1548
---	------

Committee of the whole House

Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act , Bill 79, Hon. Mr. Wrye, Mr. Martel, Mr. Gillies, Mr. Sterling, progress reported.	1572
--	------

Other business

Notice of dissatisfaction , Mr. Foulds	1547
Adjournment	1575

Appendix

Answers to questions in Orders and Notices

Liquor Control Board of Ontario , question 2, Mr. Philip, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1576
Government advertising , question 4, Mr. Davis, Hon. Mr. Ruprecht	1576
Rent regulation , question 135, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Curling	1577
Environmental protection , question 136, Mr. Harris, Hon. Mr. Bradley	1582
Acquired immune deficiency syndrome , question 153, Mr. Treleaven, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1583
Occupational health and safety , question 155, Mr. Martel, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1583
Kimberly-Clark of Canada Ltd. , question 157, Mr. Pierce, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1583
Police commissions , question 161, Mr. Sterling, Hon. Mr. Keyes	1583
Government drivers , question 162, Mr. McCague, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1590
Government advertising , question 167, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1590
St. Catharines Help Centre , question 169, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1591
Futures program , question 172, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1591
Help centres , question 174, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1591
Highway construction , question 177, Mr. Sterling, Hon. Mr. Fulton	1591
Social assistance , question 179, Mr. Cousens, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1592
Northern development councils , question 195, Mr. Pierce, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1592
Government parking , question 202, Mr. McLean, Hon. Mr. Conway	1592
Interim answers , questions 124, 138, 142 to 151 and 182	1592

Response to petition

Interim response , sessional paper 73	1593
--	------

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)
Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC)
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Fontaine, R. (Cochrane North L)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Minister of Financial Institutions (Wilson Heights L)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)
Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House and Acting Speaker (Carleton East L)
Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Hamilton Centre L)
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)
Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines (London Centre L)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)
Smith, D. W. (Lambton L)
Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)



No. 32

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Third Session, 33rd Parliament
Tuesday, June 23, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, June 23, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

COMMISSION ON ELECTION FINANCES

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that today I have laid upon the table the 10th report of the Commission on Election Finances respecting the indemnities and allowances of the members of the Legislative Assembly. That report will be found in your mailboxes.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AIR-INDIA DISASTER

Mr. Shymko: Today marks the tragic anniversary of the crash of Air-India flight 182 off the coast of Ireland. On this day in 1985, 329 lives were lost, 80 per cent of them Canadians; namely, 280 passengers who were Canadians, 62 of them children.

I rise, therefore, on behalf of all members of this Legislature, to commemorate and to honour the memory of the victims of this disaster and extend condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the disaster.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to all members of the Hindu community as well as Muslims, Sikhs and Christians who on this day will light candles in memory of those who perished in this senseless tragedy. We feel the grief and share the loss that has affected so many families in Toronto, Ontario and the rest of Canada.

We have come to realize that terrorism is not something that was somebody else's problem. We realize that Canadians were not isolated from this terrible action on the part of those who, for ideological or whatever reasons, perpetrate these terrible crimes with so many innocent victims.

We have made some progress in combating terrorism. There is still a great deal to be done and I hope our government, along with the federal government, will pursue that route.

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORP.

Mr. Laughren: I rise yet again to issue an offer on behalf of the government, because the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) is too shy to extend an offer to all entrepreneurs

anywhere in Ontario, Canada or any other jurisdiction, to come to Ontario and invade the Ontario market with their lottery tickets.

It seems not to matter to the government that this province makes \$500 million a year on lottery profits; it is willing to put that in jeopardy by allowing entrepreneurs in this province to sell lottery tickets to other jurisdictions even though other jurisdictions have laws forbidding that. This government is quite happy to put in jeopardy that \$500 million.

The Minister of Tourism and Recreation brought the bill back and wants the bill to go to third reading. For two months the government has sat and allowed Bill 115 to languish in third reading. It has been subjected to some kind of lobbying, some kind of high-powered pressuring, and the House leader and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) have submarine-torpedoed the Minister of Tourism and Recreation and will not call the bill for third reading.

The state of Florida has asked for three separate injunctions forbidding the sale of Ontario lottery tickets in Florida, yet this government looks the other way and winks at the people who are engaging in that unlawful practice.

GREATER KINGSTON CHEESE FESTIVAL

Mr. South: I take this opportunity to tell the House about the Greater Kingston Cheese Festival. We want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, and this House, that the best cheddar cheese in the world is made in eastern Ontario.

Mr. Gillies: All right.

Mr. South: That is right, Phil.

This will be a week-long event beginning on Monday, September 28, and running until Sunday, October 4. The first part of the week will be an opportunity to tell the children of the province about the magic and the history of cheese-making. The latter part of the week will be like an old-country-type fair, emulating the pioneer times when cheese was such an important commodity in Ontario.

I would also like to take the opportunity at this time to thank the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for providing a \$50,000 Destinations East grant to make this festival possible.

All of you, come on down to eastern Ontario and eat the best cheddar cheese in the world.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Stevenson: Last week, I met with a committee of citizen representatives to discuss the report by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications regarding the reconstruction of Highway 48 from the hamlet of Virginia to the Morning Glory School in the town of Georgina.

The local citizens and all elected representatives feel reconstruction is necessary because of the increased traffic on Highway 48. Rapidly increasing truck traffic, particularly related to the aggregate industry, extra recreational and commercial traffic related to the gradual completion of Highway 404, and the growth in local traffic are contributing to a potentially dangerous situation.

The government killed the construction of an alternative highway to ease the burden on Highway 48 in the future. It is now time for the minister to commit funding for the extension of the four-lane section east of Virginia or to put in a continuous left-turn lane and to construct a left-turn lane at the Morning Glory School.

The committee will be submitting a brief to the minister and I urge the minister to act quickly on this issue.

1340

HOUSING STOCK

Mr. Reville: My statement today is entitled Books, Yes, Housing, No; or How the Minister Wrote While the Folks Camped Out.

One might have expected a Minister of Housing to be busy creating new housing, protecting existing housing and ensuring tenant protection; but no, this minister has been writing books. As books go, they are quite nice, though not particularly relevant for people who have no housing. Take this one, *Understanding Your House*. Is the big problem in Ontario really misunderstood houses? Do you not need to have a house before you can understand a house? Mind you, Mr. Speaker, psychotherapy for housing is trendy.

Two other titles seem to have been written for a smaller readership, a readership of one, in fact. This one, *The Water Resistant House*, is autobiographical. It is a somewhat wistful dream that somehow in the Legislature the minister can avoid being all wet. The companion volume is clearly the minister's diary. It contains the usual recipes for self-improvement and is appropriately called *Get Your House in Shape*.

Dare we hope, Minister?

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Mr. Epp: I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the University of Waterloo, a truly world-class institution, for its successful bid at being designated to participate in the centres of excellence program announced last Thursday by our Premier (Mr. Peterson). The announcement solely designated the University of Waterloo, among other institutions, as a Centre for Groundwater Research, as well as a participant in four other centres.

I would also like to salute the very highly qualified members of the Premier's Council, a group whose efforts should not be overlooked, at making their selection through an exhaustive process involving a formidable list of very qualified proposals. I know that the university community is equally elated at the prospect of bringing together large corporations, small businesses, labour and academics to place Ontario on the leading edge in international research and product marketing.

The selection process itself has been unprecedented in that it has involved co-operation and collaboration among these groups and indeed has relied on external expertise from around the world to review and evaluate the technical and scientific merit of all participants. By this very exercise, I am truly proud that the University of Waterloo, in being designated to participate in five of the seven centres of excellence, will continue to be at the forefront of international competitive activity, a distinction which allows it to remain second to none.

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Mr. Brandt: I rise today to congratulate a company in my riding on an act of good corporate citizenship. Polysar included in the latest edition of its corporate newsletter a comprehensive booklet entitled, *AIDS: Myths and Facts*. This booklet, prepared by the Polysar medical department, outlines some of the myths about this serious disease, while at the same time educating about how the disease spreads and how it can be prevented.

This is the type of clear thinking and commonsense approach to this disease that we should all applaud and encourage. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome is a serious health problem and it should be treated as such. Education and dispelling the myths surrounding AIDS are two of the best weapons that we have to

fight this illness. I applaud the action taken by Polysar and I urge other employers and institutions to take similar action with respect to their own internal publications.

RECORD OF DEBATES

Mr. Speaker: Last Thursday, the member for St. George (Ms. Fish) raised a point of order bringing to the attention of the House that the printed Hansard for Monday, June 8, contained a correction that went beyond the normal editing practices followed by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

It was pointed out that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on that date had used the word "country" instead of the word "province" when speaking about Quebec as reflected in that day's Instant Hansard, but that the printed version had been altered in favour of the word "province."

I undertook to check into the matter and can report to the House that the correction was undertaken solely upon the responsibility of our Hansard branch. The editing practices of our Hansard branch are derived from Westminster practice and call upon editors to correct "errors of fact mentally corrected by those listening."

There is no question that the word used was "country," but Quebec is a province and the editor's decision was to substitute that description of the jurisdiction. I thank the honourable member for St. George for bringing this matter to the attention of the House and the chair. After looking into this matter, I am satisfied that Hansard has acted within the bounds of our practice and that we continue to be very well served.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The whole matter of the Hansard reporting is one that—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: It is a new point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: You are challenging my ruling?

Mr. Harris: No, I am not. I have a new point of order, I said. Thank you.

The whole question of Hansard reporting is one that ought to be of a very high concern to all members of this Legislature. I am not referring exclusively to the example that was brought to you, Mr. Speaker. You asked me, do I challenge your ruling: I do not think you made a ruling. I think you reported the facts as we asked you to do and we thank you for that.

However, I would suggest to you that this is a matter this Legislature ought to look into. One

vehicle for doing that would be to refer this matter to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly as to what latitude do our practices allow, by taking a look at some of the examples that are there. Is this, in fact, the latitude that we want to give to others to put into the printed record, in fact what is supposed to be a transcript or the minutes, if you like, of the procedures and the statements that are made in this Legislature?

Now there is a vehicle when somebody inadvertently makes a mistake or says something he did not mean to say; there is a vehicle in Hansard for the actual statement to be printed and to rise to correct the record. That vehicle being there, we have had other examples and this one particularly concerns us.

In the light of that, I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether you would refer this matter to the Legislative Assembly committee. In this particular example that was brought to your attention, we are dealing with a Premier (Mr. Peterson) who welcomed Premier Bourassa into Canada; we are talking about a Premier who has demonstrated repeatedly a mindset on his vision of Canada, contrary to the one that the interpretation by Hansard has placed on his remarks.

I would ask you to refer this matter in general to the Legislative Assembly committee.

Mr. Speaker: I listened very, very carefully, and it is certainly up to this House or to the Speaker to make any suggestion or give anything to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly to review and consider. I am certain that the chairman was listening very carefully and I am sure that it may be taken under consideration.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION

Hon. Mr. Conway: The recent speech from the throne committed Ontario schools to provide a curriculum and a learning experience that are relevant and meaningful to all students. As part of that mandate, Ontario schools were challenged to explore the important areas of science and technology.

To help schools meet that challenge, I would like to announce the Ontario Ministry of Education's plans to take advantage of developing computer technology in order to provide Ontario students with wider access to educational software and to a variety of microcomputer systems.

These plans focus on the importance of a software portability environment. A software portability environment is a technological advance that will make it possible for the education-

al software we have developed to be used on both of Ontario's grant-eligible microcomputer systems, the Icon and the IBM Ednet. As well, a software portability environment anticipates that other microcomputer systems will meet the requirements necessary to become eligible to receive Ontario Ministry of Education grant assistance.

1350

This will ensure that computer systems used in our schools keep pace with new developments in technology and will stimulate the development of educational software that responds to the emerging needs of our students and our teachers. By providing this mechanism whereby all approved educational software packages can be used by computer systems of many potential vendors, the Ontario Ministry of Education is also opening the door to new participation from a wider range of computer developers and vendors.

The technology that supports these computers is dynamic and there have been dramatic changes in technology since the Ontario Ministry of Education—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is very difficult to hear. There are many private conversations taking place. Rather than having further interjections, it might be—order.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The technology that supports these computers is dynamic and there have been dramatic changes in technology since the Ontario Ministry of Education released its first set of educational microcomputer functional requirements in 1983. Improved technology now allows software developers to create sophisticated educational programs, using such things as high-resolution colour displays, a standardized keyboard for English and French, and enhanced voice and sound production capabilities. The educational software that is incorporating such innovations has proven very successful with very young learners and also with those students who have learning exceptionalities.

It is with this in mind that the Ontario Ministry of Education is today releasing its proposed phase II computer requirements to the educational community, software developers and microcomputer vendors. These groups will have until the end of September to suggest ways in which the proposed requirements might be modified to reflect changing trends in technology and the new challenges of the classroom. These suggestions will be carefully considered in the development of a revised document which I expect to make available to the public by December of this year.

By making a commitment to keep pace with the computer industry, we are ensuring that our students will continue to enjoy a stimulating and relevant educational system that is sensitive and attuned to the changing needs of today's modern society.

PENSION BENEFITS

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I wish to inform the members that I will be introducing motions to amend Bill 170, the Pension Benefits Act, during clause-by-clause review by this House. The majority of the amendments are minor drafting changes to improve the clarity of the bill and to ensure that Ontario has the best possible pension legislation. Many changes are the result of suggestions made during this April's public hearings on the bill before the standing committee on general government.

Among major changes to Bill 170 are the following:

A new section will be added to the bill to reinforce the government's commitment to inflation protection for pensions. The section will mandate that pensions be adjusted to provide inflation-related increases. Through this action, we wish to give assurance of the government's firm resolve to introduce mandatory inflation protection. Specifics of the implementation procedures will be recommended by the Task Force on Inflation Protection for Employment Pension Plans, which is due to report by the end of the year.

Section 54, requiring pensions of equal value regardless of marital status, will be deleted. This action is taken due to the almost unanimous opposition of all interest groups, who indicated concerns about the section's practical effect on pension benefits currently being offered to surviving spouses.

Section 32 will be revised to expand pension plan membership criteria for part-time workers. Currently the section states that part-time employees will be eligible to join a pension plan after two years of service if they have earned at least 35 per cent of the Canada pension plan's year's maximum pensionable earnings, or YMPE, for two consecutive years. This amounts to approximately \$9,065 in 1987. The section will be revised to permit eligibility for part-time workers who either earn 35 per cent of the YMPE or work at least 700 hours per year.

Section 75, dealing with employees' rights when a plan is wound up, will be revised so that it will apply to all plan terminations as of April 1, 1987. It will also provide that, where an

employer's consent is required for the purposes of receiving an ancillary benefit on a windup, such consent is deemed to be given. This amendment, which will apply to the Goodyear plant closure in May 1987 and similar circumstances, was previously announced in this House on May 11, 1987.

Subsection 25(1) will be revised and subsection 25(2a) added to permit former members of the plan—that is, retirees—to be represented on an advisory committee. Many retiree groups have asked for this change and the government agrees that retirees should have a voice on an advisory committee.

I am pleased that after so much work we have reached the stage of clause-by-clause review of Bill 170. I hope, with the co-operation of the members, we will have speedy passage of the bill so that pension plan members can realize the many important and welcome reforms in this legislation.

RESPONSES

COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION

Ms. Fish: I rise to respond to the extraordinary statement made by the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) today about computers in education. Advancing computers in education brings to mind the award-winning program I was pleased to see broadcast and developed on TVOntario called Bits and Bytes.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am glad she is off women's issues, Sean.

Ms. Fish: I think the only bite the Minister of Education will be providing in the school system is a bite from the local taxpayer, particularly with the consistent reduction in priority that this government has given to education expenditure as a percentage of full provincial expenditures and as a percentage of support for local expenditures on public education. In 1986 that level of expenditure hit its lowest level in some 16 years and it has continued to plummet notwithstanding the Treasurer's (Mr. Nixon) trumpeting of a few short weeks ago of his intention to reverse the trend and to expand education expenditure.

This proposal for computers in education might indeed be better received if the minister had taken more seriously the issues of basic skills for the students of this province rather than his proposal about some vague sort of testing, maybe in five, six or seven years, kind of.

Finally, of course, one is put in mind of the fact that computers and tendering are not something the minister has held dear to his heart.

Indeed, in excess of 50 per cent of the computer contracts in the Ministry of Government Services are untendered—

Hon. Mr. Scott: Who is your women's issues critic now?

Mr. Gillies: We all do it.

Ms. Fish: — something that does not seem to bother the minister very much; and, indeed, some excess of 30 per cent of the computer contracts in the Ministry of Education are untendered. In addition to not disturbing the minister in the least, it apparently does not disturb the Premier (Mr. Peterson), apparently does not disturb the Treasurer, apparently does not disturb anybody that massive numbers of untendered contracts in computers are going out.

Mr. Gillies: Ian is disturbed.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: Stop the clock.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Ms. Fish: The issue before us today is, in part, the question of the standards and the requirements to be met by the various computer companies before they can make proposals to the education system—evidently make proposals as distinct from tendering, because of course the minister for at least in excess of 30 per cent of his contracts is not very concerned about the tendering side of it.

But even in making proposals one puts the question to the minister: in the light of the recent decision of at least one of the companies previously specified as acceptable for computers in school projects to close its Ontario production plant and to move its operations and production to Korea, will the change in guidelines recognize that kind of move, permit it to occur in tendering, or will the minister in at least this small and modest way require that any proposals that come forward for the educational system, to be reimbursed by the public education dollar, be produced here in Ontario?

1400

PENSION BENEFITS

Mr. Ashe: I rise to respond to the statement by the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Kwinter) regarding Bill 170. Frankly, I am surprised that he would take up the time of the Legislature to make a statement relative to something we will be dealing with in committee before the day is out.

In any event, this is, as the minister has identified, a very significant piece of legislation that, frankly, implements many years of negotia-

tion and consensus across Canada that was, frankly, started and finalized by the previous administration. It is funny I did not hear in the minister's statement that really that is what Bill 170 does. I just want to put on the record, Mr. Speaker, that as you notice in here, the minister indicates recognition of inflation protection and is making an amendment accordingly.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that again that particular recognition did not just come out of the blue. We are not satisfied to give the right to the government through regulations to implement whatever final consensus and direction there is to implement some form of inflation protection. We will be making an amendment to indicate to the minister and to the government that they will be obligated to bring an amendment to Bill 170, as it is finally structured, back to this Legislature to be dealt with in the democratic fashion.

Mr. McClellan: I want to respond as well to the statement by the Minister of Financial Institutions on his pension legislation and to note that there are, I think, three changes of heart in the minister's bill that should be acknowledged.

First, the minister has placed mandatory inflation protection into the bill. That is a change of heart from the position he took in the committee when he said it was going to be possible for the Friedland task force to come in with a verdict that inflation protection was, in fact, impossible. I think there has been a major change of heart on the part of the minister and a commitment will be enshrined in Bill 170 stating that pension benefits shall be adjusted to provide inflation-related increases. That is an important gain for ordinary working people.

Second, the minister has indicated that the Family Law Act will prevail over the Pension Benefits Act and that couples will be able to use pension benefits as part of the general assets pool in order to reach amicable negotiated settlements. Again, this is a change of heart on the part of the government. I want to pay tribute to the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) who has raised this issue in the Legislature and who was planning to move an amendment to do precisely that. I congratulate the minister for taking that initiative in restoring the primacy of the Family Law Act.

Third, the minister has mentioned again that this bill will benefit the Goodyear workers. I want to pay tribute to the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) for raising that issue repeatedly in the House and to congratulate the government for having the wisdom to incorporate a special provision in the bill that will ensure the Goodyear

workers will receive full pension credits upon the passage of this bill.

There are still a number of issues that need to be dealt with. We will be moving our amendments in this House to try to persuade the government to enshrine the principle of full inflation protection to the level of 100 per cent of the consumer price index in the bill, and we will have an opportunity to debate that later today. We have amendments as well to put an end once and for all to the theft of surplus pension funds by corporations. Again, we hope the government will come to its senses and stop the legalized theft of property that belongs to ordinary working people. The government has a chance to do the right thing. We will see later this afternoon if it is going to take the opportunity or not.

COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION

Mr. Allen: I rise to respond to the Minister of Education's statement with respect to computers in education. I am reminded that today we have had two major events in education in these precincts: first by a new network of public education groups concerned about the inability of the government to live up to its own throne speech objectives; and second, one respecting developments in literacy. They provide a kind of context in which one wants to look at computers in education.

The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, specialists in this field, was very sceptical of the move of the ministry and the past government into this field. Field operations have raised a lot of questions, as indeed have some recent events. For example, the Icon, which was supposed to be a new specialty in the economy of Ontario when it was introduced, is now produced in Taiwan. One wonders about some of the rest of the program.

For example, I had discussions with a hands-on, very informed principal in my own school system in Hamilton, who had developed for his own school, prior to and during the Icon program, a very impressive delivery program which cost about \$6,000. When the Icons were awarded to him, the cost was \$35,000 for basically the same operation. One wonders how much is needlessly being spent across the province on the computers in education program.

If I read this proposal by the minister correctly, it is to open up the accessibility of the computer program to all sorts of hardware and software deliverers. In that sense, it will undoubtedly economize the system, and I am grateful for that. But I remind the minister that persons as eminent

in science and technology as David Suzuki have recently written very sceptical things about the presence and place of computers in education.

ORAL QUESTIONS

AUTO PACT

Mr. Pope: My question is to the Premier. There have been some public musings lately about whether the auto pact should be or is on the bargaining table at the free trade talks. I think every party in this Legislature agrees—certainly, on January 29 every party supported the resolution of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) that the auto pact should not and would not be part of the free trade talks.

The auto pact has existed since 1965. It has worked well prior to these talks and we want it to continue after these talks.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I find it very difficult; I cannot hear the question. Would the member place the question please.

Mr. Pope: Given the fact that in spite of the public musings, all three parties in this Legislature supported the Leader of the Opposition's resolution last January 29 that the auto pact should not and would not be part of the free trade talks from Ontario's point of view, given the fact that this issue is already decided in this Legislature, that the auto pact has existed since 1965, that it has worked for Canadian interests prior to these trade negotiations and that we want it to continue to work in our interests after these talks, putting aside the issue of the free trade talks, can the Premier confirm that under article 7 of the auto pact the Americans can terminate the auto pact at any time by giving 12 months' notice?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Yes.

Mr. Pope: Good. Now that the Premier has at last acknowledged that, the Premier knows—

An hon. member: First point.

Mr. Pope: That is the first point. Now that he has acknowledged that—and he did not over the past three weeks—in the face of the comments emanating from the Governor of Michigan since last September that the auto pact in its present form is unacceptable, in the face of the United Auto Workers' comments—I guess thanks to Bob White—that it wants the auto pact renegotiated or cancelled, in the face of the those challenges, what is he doing in the United States to protect Ontario's jobs and Ontario's interests?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I want to correct my honourable friend in his misapprehension that

people in this House were not aware of the fact that the auto pact, under its terms and conditions, could be cancelled on one year's notice. That has existed since the inception of the contract some years ago. I could have told the honourable member that if he had asked a year or two ago. As a matter of fact, it was discussed in this House a matter of a year or two ago. I guess my honourable friend was practising law in Timmins that particular day. But I assume everybody knows that, and I assume that if my honourable friend knows it, everybody else knows it. The lowest common denominator understands that basic fact about the auto pact.

Let me say to my honourable friend that this has been a matter of some considerable discussion here, in Washington and in a variety of other places. I am aware of the musings by Mr. Merkin, Senator Levin, Congressman Levin, Mr. Blanchard, Congressman Dingell and others with respect to the auto pact.

1410

I understand, as the member does, that there is some discomfiture with it in some quarters in the United States at the present time because, as he knows and I know, Canada is running a surplus at the present time. I do not hesitate to point out to them that over the life of that agreement, over the last 20 or 25 years, it has come out about net, net.

The member will recall there was a time when we were running a deficit under the auto pact and his leader suggested then that we renegotiate the auto pact, he will recall, so I am glad he has clearly stated his view on the matter.

I have discussed this with senior officials in the automotive industry here as well as in the US. Even though there is some disgruntlement by gentlemen he has mentioned and I have mentioned, I would hope that together we could impress upon everyone concerned the seriousness and importance of that document, not just for Canada but for all of North America.

Mr. Pope: We do not need to be told by the Premier that there is some concern by the Americans over the auto pact. This has been going on for a year and he has not done anything about it. That is the concern we have. He has not done anything about it. He can make all the personal observations he wants. There are 285,000 jobs at stake on this issue. We want to know what he has done to protect those jobs. So far he has told us nothing and I presume that is what he has done: nothing.

This is the same government that sold out 1,000 softwood lumber workers in northern Ontario in a written document that he refused to

make public last September and it came out only six months later.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary?

Mr. Pope: What is he doing to protect those jobs in Ontario? Never mind the diatribe—what is he doing to help those workers?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With respect, to my honourable friend, I think he continues to misinterpret the softwood lumber discussion and he may want to direct some of his venom and his strong remarks to his kissing cousins in Ottawa, who are the ones who made the decision. Whether or not they take his views seriously on this matter is something for them to determine.

As I said, we have discussed this with a great variety of interests in the US. I believe the federal government, hopefully, is on side that it should not be changed in this matter. I have also discussed this with my colleagues. Roger Smith, the chairman of General Motors, has called the auto pact the greatest instrument of trade policy in the history of the world. In other words, there is a substantial element that does support it. Our job is to gather those up, and I believe there is no risk at the present time of a unilateral cancellation.

My worry is that the federal negotiators, perhaps under pressure from the Americans, may want to alter it or subtly gut the auto pact, and we cannot stand situations that either directly or indirectly change that auto pact. We need the tariff protection that surrounds it and I hope I can take the view to the federal negotiators that this House stands united that no one should try to get around that pact directly or indirectly.

Ms. Fish: The Premier knows that the leader of the official opposition opposed the inclusion of the auto pact in any free trade talks and represented so right from the start. Is that another correction of Hansard we are going to see?

Mr. Speaker: Order. To the Minister of Education?

Ms. Fish: Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) and the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) could continue their conversation somewhere else if they wish, but the member for St. George has a question to the Minister of Education.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Ms. Fish: On March 28, 1985, in Sudbury, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) made a commitment that should he form a government in this province

he would restore a 60 per cent level of provincial support to local education expenditures. In view of the fact that in 1986 the level of provincial support fell to its lowest point in 16 years, to 44.9 per cent, and in 1987, notwithstanding the many promises by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), appears to have fallen again to 42.7 per cent, can he tell this House when he, as Minister of Education, intends to implement the Premier's promise to restore the level to 60 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The lady from St. George, the newly appointed critic for Education, began her question by observing that we know where the leader of the Tory party stands. I do not know that we can say that, because I was reading the other day a statement by former Premier William Davis, who told the Tory fund-raiser last week, and I quote—he was speaking of the Tory leader's "willingness to simply accept the status quo being good enough."

That is what Bill Davis of Brampton says of the Tory leader. Who am I to quarrel with the former Tory Premier of Ontario?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Sarnia.

Mr. Brandt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The member knows full well that is a misprint in a magazine. I think it is detestable that he brings it up. He knows full well that is the case.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will just wait, if you want to waste the time this way. We will just wait.

Mr. Harris: This is the sleazy government that changes Hansard, that changes the rules.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The members opposite are obviously very sensitive. They stand up every day and correct the record on everyone else's account. I just drew attention to that because I think it is very important for the member.

I want to say to the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) that this government, under the leadership of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), has over the last two years substantially improved the funding to education in Ontario. We have tripled the capital allocations for next year over the last year of the Tory administration.

Miss Stephenson: Oh no, you have not.

Hon. Mr. Conway: For the visitor from York Mills, we have substantially improved the cash

flow to school boards, something about which they long complained. Our grants are well above inflation, and we have given education not only the kind of financial support but also the kind of priority that we believe it deserves in our modern society. We are very proud of our record and we are quite prepared to stand our record against the record of the previous regime.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will just wait, if you do not want any questions. We will just wait.

Ms. Fish: I guess, Minister, it is an issue of credibility, an issue of whether the Premier's word is any good. Apparently, it is not good with respect to Hansard choosing to correct "country" to "province" on a direct question surrounding immigration and constitutional reform, but this is a question about his word respecting the specific increase in restoration to 60 per cent support by the province to local educational expenditures.

The support that has occurred from the minister's government, under that same Premier, has declined steadily in two years. Indeed, as a proportion of government expenditure it has reduced again to its lowest point, to 10.6 per cent in 1987-88 down from 15.3 per cent.

In an attempt to get past the minister's blunderbuss, my question is a simple one. When will he live up to his Premier's word, if indeed it is good, and restore to 60 per cent the provincial level of funding for education?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Methinks the honourable lady doth protest too much, particularly about blunderbuss. I have to say to my friend from St. George that when one looks at 1987, one sees the Ontario government's share of approved educational expenditures at about 55 per cent; not bad at all. Yes, we have a distance yet to go. We are not going to be able to correct the damage done by the lady from York Mills overnight.

I want to say that when one looks at not just the 55 per cent of approved expenditures but also at the capital account—there have been members across the way come to me and say, "Minister, will you please build that school that our government did not find its way to build?" I will not be any more specific than that. They have found much more success in recent months than they ever found with their own colleagues. To be sure, more remains to be done, and as a government that has a strong commitment to public education we intend to do more. I invite the support of the honourable member in that very important responsibility.

1420

Ms. Fish: The minister's patronizing response does disservice to the ratepayers, the parents and the children within the educational system of this province.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Ms. Fish: The minister now chooses to obfuscate the issue by referring to approved educational expenditures. The minister knows that virtually every board in this province, from the richest to the poorest, has expenditures in excess of the approved ceilings, responding to the direct and immediate need of expenditure to educate our young people. The minister also knows that as a consistent percentage of that expenditure, the provincial share has declined and has continued to decline under this minister and this Premier to its lowest level now in 1987.

Mr. Speaker: And the question is?

Ms. Fish: The question is, is the minister, instead of restoring the 60 per cent, the provincial level of support to education, thereby giving the lie to his Premier's word, intending now to hide behind the skirts of the artificially low ceiling of approved educational expenditures?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I warn the honourable lady she might offend the parliamentary sensibilities of the House leader of the official opposition with the vernacular she is indulging in this afternoon. We do not want to upset the opposition House leader with that kind of language, do we?

I just want to say that we are this year, in fiscal 1987-88, spending something like \$9 billion a year, \$47 million a day. The honourable lady seems to be suggesting that we as a government commit ourselves to 60 per cent of the clear blue Ontario sky. Is that her suggestion? Is that her party's view? Certainly that does not seem to me to make very much fiscally responsible sense.

We are saying as a government that today we are funding 55 per cent of approved expenditures, and we are looking at a major report on educational finance that indicates a variety of creative ways and possibilities to address a number of the structural difficulties about which there is some concern, and I have to tell the honourable lady from St. George that we have a strong commitment—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, the member for York South.

AUTO PACT

Mr. Rae: My question to the Premier is about the auto pact. He will know that the question of

tariff reduction across the board as it affects the auto pact is really the central problem. He will know full well that if tariffs are reduced overall and eliminated overall, as now appears to be the objective of the talks of both governments, that will effectively "reduce the auto pact to a shell," to quote the words of the memorandum.

The Premier stated on June 3 that as far as he was concerned the auto pact was not on the table; this is 1986, over a year ago. He said the same thing in November 1986. He said the same thing again this week. Yet the fact remains that it is clear the auto pact has been on the table all that time, as has the question of tariff reduction.

The question I have is simply this: just what is it going to take for the Premier to have some impact on these discussions, and has his position throughout been that tariff reduction should not apply specifically to the auto pact?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member is absolutely right in his analysis. I express to him a concern that a reduction of tariffs surrounding the auto pact would render that, as the member and others have said, a shell, so we cannot have anyone adopt a sneaky or devious way around the situation. The tariffs with respect to the auto industry must remain intact to protect that document. Without them, it is virtually worthless, as my honourable friend says.

That is clearly the position of this government and, I assume, the position of this Legislature, that has been forcefully put to the federal government and anyone else who would listen.

Mr. Rae: The Premier says that has been forcefully put. Let me just say to the Premier that what he has said today is not in fact what he has said on other occasions with respect to the auto pact. He is shaking his head. I have been through Hansard trying to figure out where he stands on these things and I have not found that clear statement from him or from a member of his cabinet.

It is perfectly clear that no one has been listening for the entire time. The Premier says this is Ontario's position as of last June, Ontario's position as of November and Ontario's position today. Surely he must understand that in fact what has been on the table since the very beginning has been an overall reduction in the level of tariffs across the board. That is what these discussions have been all about.

Since that has been the sum total of these discussions since they were established by the Prime Minister, I would like to ask the Premier why he has been so silent and why he has continued to condone ongoing discussions when

it is perfectly obvious that that is precisely what has been going on right behind his back.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend has more experience with people who do not listen than I do.

I do not agree with my honourable friend's analysis in this particular situation. We have been clear and consistent throughout. There are no changes in that.

The member is responding today and asking questions; as he has every right to do, based on Mr. Merkin's document from the United States. That does not concern me nearly as much as the clear position of the Canadian administration concerns me. When I read that memo, I had equal concerns with my colleague opposite.

I chatted with the Prime Minister yesterday and I told him that as far as I am concerned, and I have told him many other times before, it requires a clear and unequivocal statement from the federal government that the auto pact as it exists will not be touched—it is that clear and simple—and that includes the tariff protection that surrounds it and gives it meaning.

Mr. Rae: I guess the question I have for the Premier is: just where has he been? Surely he understands that the whole thrust of the Mulroney initiative from the very beginning has been about the overall reduction of tariffs and the elimination of tariffs between Canada and the United States. That has been the given of the discussions from day one.

I wonder if the Premier can explain why Ontario has sat back basically with its hands in its pockets throughout these discussions. Occasionally it has voiced a general concern about what is happening to the auto pact, but it has let this basically go on. The Premier stated over a year ago exactly what he is stating today, yet as he says it today, as he discusses it today, everybody in Canada except the Premier knows that what Simon Reisman and Peter Murphy are discussing is the elimination of tariffs across the board.

What is it going to take for the Premier to understand that Ontario's position has to be to stop these talks in their tracks because they are going to destroy the auto pact in this province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say with great respect to my friend opposite that his analysis is not correct of where Ontario has been in the stating of our position in very specific terms on these matters.

Now I understand my honourable friend opposite would like to throw a bomb in the middle of the talks. He would have done it a year ago. He does not believe any discussions should have taken place. Ontario could have walked

away, but they would have gone on anyway, as my honourable friend knows.

I understand the member's ideological position on this matter, but he has to understand in very clear terms where Ontario stands. Ontario has been a very forceful and well-informed advocate, not just for Ontario's interest but for the national interest in these discussions and will continue to play that role.

CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier on another major issue of national importance, and that is the question of the Meech Lake accord. The Premier will know that Prime Minister Mulroney gave an interview to the Canadian Press—it was quoted in the *Globe and Mail* this morning—in which the Prime Minister states categorically it is his view that the Premiers agreed to sell the Meech Lake accord as it was specifically worded and as they specifically signed it—that is precisely what all the parties to the agreement agreed to—and that as far as he was concerned, there were not going to be changes with respect to multiculturalism, native rights and the admission of new provinces into Confederation.

I wonder if the Premier can tell us whether that is also his understanding of what was agreed to.

1430

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I read that article. It is interesting to read the article as compared to the headline; I think they differ a little bit in terms of the nuance; but I am not here to justify what he said or did not say. Let me tell the member my very clear understanding of the matter.

As the process entered the formal stage—i.e., the formal discussions in the Legislature with a formal resolution to discuss—obviously something had to be committed to paper, and we did that at Langevin. But I think the Prime Minister said then, and I assume it is the case today, that if there are some egregious errors or if we find some major flaw, then it has the capacity to be changed. Hence, the public hearings, both federally, which we pushed for, as you know, and in this province.

As I read it, it is not as if they are looking for change in some other area of constitutional reform—that will be kept for a later day—but, with respect to the items we discussed, if there are improvements that can be made, it is still possible to do; not easy to do, as you know, because it would require the approval of all 10 Legislatures and one Parliament, but it is possible to do.

Mr. Rae: The Premier refers to headlines. I am going to refer directly to the body of the article: “He said”—that is referring to Mr. Mulroney—“the provincial Premiers pledged in the early hours of June 3 to defend the wording of the agreement and that he fully expects them to do so.” Is that what the Premier pledged? Is that what the Premier is intending to do?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am very comfortable with the wording, obviously, or I would not have signed it. If the member has some better ideas on wording that can get national agreement, then we will have a discussion about that. I am comfortable with the wording, and I think we have achieved a substantial number of things thereby.

Mr. Rae: I say with the greatest respect to the Premier that he is speaking out of both sides of his mouth at the same time, for which I want to offer him some physical congratulations with respect to the physiology of his feat. However, I say to him that in terms of the substance of what is at stake here, he really is giving off two totally different messages.

He is saying that he is personally, and that his government is personally, committed to every jot, every word, every expression in the Meech Lake accord, and then he is saying that the government is also committed to a hearings process. This is a minority parliament. The Premier understands that. The Legislature is supposed to be having hearings in the fall. He may not like it, but it is true. The Legislature is supposed to be having hearings, and may well come up with suggestions, mandated by the Legislature itself, for a change in wording to include native rights, to include expression of support for multiculturalism, to perhaps change the question of the admission of new provinces into Confederation.

My question to the Premier is this: precisely what is the Premier committed to? Is the Premier committed to a process that says we are ongoing in the process of constitutional reform, or is he saying that he personally is committed to the precise wording which he agreed to on June 3? Which is it? It cannot be both.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not see the difficulty. However, I guess my honourable friend would like me to come here with some fuzzy ideas, and say: “Here are a bunch of ideas, ladies and gentlemen. Fool around with them, and we will go back.” Does the member not understand that we have to have something specific? As I told my honourable friend opposite, I am comfortable with that.

The member is quite right. We are in a minority House. This will come in front of hearings of all members of the Legislature. If it does not have the support of at least the majority of this Legislature, I would have to take those ideas that did have the support of the majority back to the other parliaments, back to the other provinces and the federal government and say, "Look, this is Ontario's position." They would have to put it through.

As the member knows, any province has a right to block this situation, so we have committed ourselves to hearings. But if I had come in with a bunch of half-baked ideas, a few ill-formed thoughts, as sometimes one hears in this Legislature, and the member said, "Let us all figure it out, boys," imagine what this minority House would do with that.

I say to the member, if it can be improved, we are interested in the ideas. The member may have some ideas. Others may have some ideas. I intend to have a full and meaningful hearing here. It must have the support of the House. If it does not, then obviously it will not go back to Ottawa.

AUTO PACT

Mr. Pope: Once again, on federal-provincial matters, the Premier says one thing privately and quite another thing publicly to the people of this province. He has been caught again, just like he was on softwood lumber. He has been caught again.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Pope: The Premier, in answer to the first question today, indicated that he was "holding discussions"—those are his words—with the auto companies and the unions with respect to the auto pact.

What is the Premier discussing? What concessions is he making? What deals is he making? What guarantees is he giving them? What is he discussing? He just said he was discussing the auto pact privately with the companies and the unions. What concessions is he giving?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not sure who is writing my honourable friend's questions, but let me try to respond to that. He is quite right; we are in very close contact with the Canadian Auto Workers, the auto parts industry and the major assemblers, and by and large, we have been able to speak with one voice.

We had a meeting, I guess three weeks to a month ago, where we put forward a position, unanimously held by all the members, to put this to the federal government with respect to overall federal automotive policy, particularly as it relates to off-North American imports; because

as members know, that is in the federal domain, it needs their blessing, and indeed it needs their leadership in that particular matter.

We have tried to impress that point upon M. Côté and the Prime Minister, the significance of this industry to the country as a whole. I believe it is the most important document we have in this country and the most important industry, and it must be protected. But with respect to negotiating on the free trade discussions or any concessions, that is nonsense. I do not know where my honourable friend picked up that idea.

Mr. Pope: If the Premier would listen to the question, he might have less difficulty answering it. I was talking about the auto pact, not free trade. He said he was having discussions with the auto industry and the unions with respect to the auto pact. He still has not told us.

Is the Premier telling me that the only subject matter of his meeting was to reinforce the importance of the industry, something that everyone in this country knows about, with 285,000 jobs? All he has discussed is the importance of the industry? Is that it from the Premier of Ontario, who is supposed to be protecting jobs and the industry in Ontario? What is he doing with his time?

Was he apprised in the course of those meetings of the impending Magna decision not to go ahead with the plant in Pickering? Was he advised as to the layoffs in Windsor? Did he accede to them? Is that part of his concession? Was that part of his deal, to cut down on employment in Ontario in the context of pressure on the auto pact? What is he doing to the workers of Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are quite a number of questions there.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is the strangest set of questions I have ever had in this House and, believe me, I have had many strange questions from the honourable member opposite. But again, he is barking up the wrong tree.

We discussed and, obviously, reasserted the importance of the auto pact, how the integrity must be kept inherent in that matter and that we have to impress upon the federal government the need for an overall, national automotive policy. That is what we discussed and all agreed upon.

My honourable friend has difficulty comprehending that, but I can tell him that is what transpired, and I invite him to talk to Mr. White or any of the automotive assemblers or any of the parts people. We all speak with one voice. My honourable friend is the only person who is perhaps speaking with a different voice.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Nickel Belt would like to ask a question.

FEDERAL TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Treasurer. The Treasurer will know that with Mr. Wilson's white paper on tax reform, Ontario's revenues will be increased about \$500 million over the next five years through taxation sharing and established programs financing.

Would the Treasurer agree that, after those proposals and in view of his statements that he wants a fairer tax system, having single persons at the poverty level in Ontario still paying over \$400 a year in provincial income tax and a family of four at the poverty level paying over \$300 in provincial income tax is plainly and simply unfair? Will he make a commitment now to remove people at the poverty level from the burden of paying provincial income tax?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I think the honourable gentleman is counting his chickens before they are hatched. The numbers he is talking about are correct, but they are substantially in the future. He will know that this year the changes that are proposed by the Minister of Finance for Canada are essentially neutral, only because the government of Canada is speeding up the payment of income tax by an additional substantial period of time that will net us a one-time-only \$213 million extra.

As a matter of fact, in the second year, when there is no additional speed-up—it counts only for one year—we go behind by \$13 million and then the net effects of changes in the corporation tax start paying off for the province.

1440

I think he is also aware of the necessity of our having corporate tax rates that are competitive with the American states, and that he is as interested as anyone in attracting industry into this jurisdiction. We hope it is Canadian-owned and controlled. We also hope that foreign investment is going to continue to come in here, at least in some degree. We are very competitive right now, and I hope we can maintain that competitive stance vis-à-vis our corporation income tax in the future.

I perhaps will let that go.

Mr. Laughren: The Treasurer is on the cutting edge of state-of-the-art rhetoric, I must say. The Treasurer will know that Finance Minister Wilson indicated that he was going to cap the capital gains exemptions at \$100,000.

The Treasurer indicated yesterday that this was in keeping with his recommendations or the recommendations of his government at least.

That will cost the Ontario Treasury, by our calculations, about \$200 million a year. Given the fact that it is costing this Treasury that kind of money, will the Treasurer make a commitment to make that kind of commitment to Ontario's low-income people and working poor by enriching the tax credits by that amount and by eliminating Ontario health insurance plan premiums for Ontario's working poor?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I think the honourable member will know that, in the budget just read to the House three or four weeks ago, we reduced the requirements from low-income people and seniors by about a quarter of a million dollars, more than the money that he is talking about. We paid that bill really before the situation that he describes came about, and we do not think that is enough.

I admire the honourable member for urging us to do more, and we hope that we can in the future; but as far as we are concerned, we think we have done all we can for this fiscal year. We are trying to do one budget at a time with as much forward planning having to do with improving our grants to education, post-secondary education, municipalities and hospitals as is practical under these circumstances.

Mr. Speaker: The Attorney General has a response to a question previously asked by the member for Oakville (Mr. O'Connor).

HUMAN RIGHTS

Hon. Mr. Scott: Yesterday the member for Oakville asked me if the little girl who is an altar girl at Sacré-Coeur Church had the right to make application under the Human Rights Code for relief. I said I would inquire into that. I have now done so and have ascertained that the little girl, like any other person in Ontario, is entitled to allege to the Ontario Human Rights Commission that she has been discriminated against.

Her allegation would be made under section 4 of the Human Rights Code. If the respondent, who might be the church, or an officer of the church, cared to respond, its response would be made under section 17 or 23. The tribunal created by the Human Rights Code would then determine the facts and make a determination as to whether discrimination, justifiable or unjustifiable, had occurred. The matter could then be reviewed by a court in the normal way.

Mr. O'Connor: Perhaps the minister did not say it yesterday because that was not the

question. I did not ask him the question as to whether the Human Rights Code applied or not. I, in fact, do not think it does.

My question yesterday was, and I will repeat it again today: given the blatant discrimination that exists in this situation, which I would suggest would be admitted even by the church, which would probably then justify it on the basis of canon law, does he feel it is appropriate in modern-day Ontario that a young girl or women should be discriminated against in this fashion by an institution of the magnitude and importance of the Catholic Church?

Does he not feel that he should at least use his moral suasion or the power of his office to suggest to them, not in a legal fashion—I do not think the Human Rights Code does apply, nor should it apply—but does he not feel that he should at least exert some influence, some moral suasion on the situation to have the church see that there is this discrimination and that something might be done by it voluntarily in the circumstances?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Just so we have it clear, the question was whether I would determine whether the complaint was subject to the Human Rights Code, and I think I have answered that question.

My friend apparently wants to know now if I care to express any view which might affect the Ontario Human Rights Commission. He knows perfectly well I would not do that and neither would he. If he is asking me to attend with him on the Cardinal, if he will be good enough to make the appointment I will be delighted to go with him.

Mr. Gillies: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: I caution the Attorney General, it might be difficult to get the last word on this one.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Gillies: I have a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Again, the question is about the very muddled signals that we are getting from this government on the question of Canada-US trade.

Last week, the minister spoke to the annual conference of the Ontario Institute of Chartered Accountants and he said two things in that speech. The minister said: "The Canadian government has made clear its basic goal in the talks. The goal is secure and broader access to the American markets. The Ontario government

supports that goal." The minister also said, "Negotiations always involve tradeoffs—giving up something to gain something."

My question to the minister is, in view of the caveats that are being expressed by other members of his administration about the free trade talks, could he tell the House exactly what it is that he is willing to give up in order to see the trade talks succeed?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: It is just a shame that the member does not have time to read the whole speech because I think a lot of that was explained in the latter part of the speech, that there are going to have to be tradeoffs, we are looking at those tradeoffs and what we are being asked to do. We are certainly not going to agree to any trade agreement until we know what those are.

Mr. Gillies: I say, I hope kindly, to the minister that these kinds of platitudes and generalities are doing us no good at all. The minister is going around the province speaking publicly in support of the government of Canada's trade initiatives. At the same time, he will not share with the House what it is that he is willing to put on the block in order to see those talks succeed.

Will the minister specifically tell us what is on the block, what jobs are on the block and what arrangements he is making for the transition towards free trade which he so generously embraces?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Again, if the member had time to read the whole speech, I think—he is not really taking from context—that speech is very plain about all the questions that we have asked as a government, the things that we originally raised which a lot of the other provinces did not and things that we are going to safeguard for this province.

Mr. Gillies: What are they? Tell us.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Oakwood is waiting patiently. New question.

HERITAGE LANGUAGES

Mr. Grande: My question is for the Premier before he leaves. My question to the Premier has to do with the attitude that this government has towards multicultural Ontario. In the last week or so, an ad has appeared in 15 ethnic newspapers across this province, an ad entitled Heritage Languages Programs of Ontario, in which the Ministry of Education explains to the ethnic communities this yellow paper entitled Ontario Heritage Languages Program.

I want to ask the Premier a simple question. Why does this ad not appear in the English-speaking and French-speaking media around this province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me refer that to the Minister of Education, who is responsible.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to say to my friend the member for Oakwood that we did, in response to a lot of interest in the community, place those ads. I might add I was happy to receive an invitation from CBC Radio the other day, which I think the honourable member is aware of, to go on the air last Thursday to speak at length about the proposals we have introduced.

I want to make very clear that this government is very anxious to put that proposal before the community. We have made no effort to do anything but encourage a wide dissemination and certainly a broadly based discussion. I am very pleased that the honourable member has seen the ads and I am absolutely confident they will encourage a better understanding of what the government intends to do to improve, enrich and expand the very successful heritage language program we have in many school boards across the province.

1450

Mr. Grande: Of course, the minister does not answer the question and I assume the minister does not have an answer to that question.

It is too bad the Premier decided not to answer the question because my next supplementary had to do with another ministry of the government, but I will go with a supplementary to the Minister of Education since that is the way the Premier deemed it to be.

Since, as I say, this ad appeared in 15 languages in 15 ethnic newspapers across this province and supposedly the attitude is that multicultural Ontario does not speak or read English to get the information from the English media, can the minister please tell me why his yellow paper, the paper where the people can check-mark to get a copy, is only in English and French and not in the 15 languages in which the minister advertised?

Hon. Mr. Conway: If the member for Oakwood is suggesting, and I think he is, that we publish that advertisement in the French- and English-language media of this province, I am delighted to take that under notice. I will be more than delighted to do it. I am absolutely proud of what we are doing. I have nothing to hide, if that is the suggestion. I want to make him very comfortable with the idea that I will put those ads

in the English- and French-language press without delay.

The difficulty, and the reason the document is in the two official languages, is of course that I wanted to get the paper out. It delayed the process some time just to have those advertisements prepared—trans-created, I think, is the language. I am quite prepared to do all I can to encourage the dissemination. It will of course require the expenditure of additional dollars, but if the House wishes it, I am more than pleased to do so. I am prepared, as I was last Thursday, to go on CHIN Radio in the morning and on CBC Radio in the afternoon to put one position to the entire community.

ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities. In response to a question of mine in the Legislature on June 11, the minister said that if there was a problem with the Ontario student assistance program currently in place for single parents, he was going to change it.

Can the minister tell us what steps he has taken to change the current inadequate, and I might add discriminatory, OSAP provisions for single parents?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: First, the system is not discriminatory. Second, the system is an alternative. Every student who is currently registered can use the new model of all grant, no loan or the old model of part grant, part loan. Third, we are looking at it. We are determining if any student is aggrieved and cannot take advantage of the appeal procedure, and if so we are going to ensure that student has the financial resources to attend a college or a university, if qualified.

Mr. Eves: It would make far more sense for the minister just to change the policy. It has already been pointed out that he was on Metro Morning about two weeks ago with Joan Wilson. She explained to him that she had a problem. He has received several letters—I have a copy of one here—from other concerned students.

I quote from this one: "By some twisted rationalization process, OSAP is suggesting that they are helping single parents by saving them from burdensome debts. I can only conclude that this is a weak and twisted excuse for their blatant discrimination against a predominantly female group because of their status of being single with children."

Can the minister explain to this House why single parents, most of whom are women, will be

getting less money under his new plan and why the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues has asked the Ontario Human Rights Commission to initiate a complaint against his ministry because of this discriminatory practice?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: If my friend the member for Parry Sound would do a little more investigation in his capacity as critic for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, he would know that one of the very serious problems of students leaving college or university after a number of years of study is that they are saddled with very substantial debt loads.

Mr. Harris: So let us not give them any money; if we do not give them any money, then they do not have to pay it back.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Read the Hansard, my friend.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Nipissing and the member for Scarborough West, order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I told Bette Stephenson in 1979 and somebody should tell you now, sir, we do not need patronizing attitudes.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Scarborough West does not have the floor.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend the member for Scarborough West is calling it patronizing.

Mr. Speaker: Response?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let me just say that in this area we are trying. Perhaps we have got it wrong, and I am willing to admit that; I do not know whether that was the case in the previous government. We are trying to facilitate the accessibility of single parents to our institutions. At the same time, we are trying to reduce unacceptable debt burdens. I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, as I tell my friend the member for Parry Sound, that we will achieve that result and they will say we have done it when they see it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There may be some other members who would like to ask questions.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. Allen: I would like to come back to the Minister of Education on the question raised by the member for St. George (Ms. Fish), who I see has retired from the fray after that shouting match.

The minister will know that two important events took place today on these grounds. One was a media conference by a new network of teachers, directors and trustees in the public

education system and the second was a literacy conference held under a tent out on the front lawn.

What we have heard today is essentially this: that this superbly wealthy province ranks fifth in per pupil expenditures in education in the elementary and secondary panel. It is second to last among the provinces in the spending of personal income on education. In the latest figures, the provincial share of education costs have gone down two percentage points from the last budget announcement, to 42.7 per cent, and only \$35 per functionally illiterate adult is spent on literacy programs in Ontario.

Can I not press upon the minister the seriousness of those statistics and ask him—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you have a question?

Mr. Allen: I said, "Can I not press upon"—

Mr. Speaker: Please do.

Mr. Allen: Can I not press upon him the seriousness of those statistics? Would it not be better for all concerned for him to do something about those statistics rather than to hold the party—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You cannot let the Premier get away with his preambles and cut that off. Very selective.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I appreciate the honourable member's concern. He has, over his time in this Legislature—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You smile when the Premier does his little bit, Mr. Speaker. All you do is smile.

Mr. Speaker: I would remind all members that interjections are out of order. Would the minister respond?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I repeat, I appreciate the honourable member's concern. He has been one of the most vocal advocates of an appropriate level of funding from the province for public education. I just want to say that the data contained in the document from the Ontario Public Education Network, to which the honourable member makes reference, in some respects are very incomplete. It is projection.

I want to repeat to the member, I like to think in our time in office we have moved forward on a number of fronts. More remains to be done, to be sure. As I said earlier today, we are now providing some 55 per cent of the approved expenditures. We have a report that suggests a variety of changes that might inject more equity and fairness.

I conclude by drawing everyone's attention to the fact that if we were today to commit this province to 60 per cent of expenditures we would have to find an additional \$1.1 billion.

1500

Mr. Allen: The absolute statistics the minister uses may be correct; the relative ones of myself and the member for St. George may be correct. When you split the difference, the province is not moving anywhere, let alone forward.

Since the minister is not picking up the large question, may I put a small question to him? Last fall, when he instituted a \$1,900 per adult student expenditure level for the adult education delivery service in this province, he grandfathered those boards—northern boards, rural boards and Catholic boards—which have very high overhead expenditures, and allowed their costs for the rest of the year until August 31.

However, the minister's research team, attempting to establish the real costs of adult education in this province, has not completed the work and now those boards will be dropped off the end—

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Allen: —they will be reduced to the standard figure. Will the minister give a commitment to this House today that he will immediately reinstate the actual expenditures of those boards as legitimate costs going to the Ministry of Education as a symbolic gesture of the same things he was talking about outside this afternoon?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have tried, as we have looked at the funding to which the member makes specific reference, to do what the school community requested. I indicated when I made that change some months ago that we would, on the basis of additional research, try to find a more permanent formula that covered the actual costs of delivering those particular programs.

As the honourable member knows, I am a very reasonable person. I want to say in a very special way to my friend the member for Hamilton West that I will take his advice into particularly serious consideration because I know of his very strong commitment to this whole public policy area.

I also want him to recognize that the resources of Ontario are not limitless. This year, as I said to my friend the member for St. George, we are spending \$9 billion, both provincially and locally, to educate some 1.85 million elementary and secondary students.

I also want to note that as we look at the challenge of education it is not just a matter of

additional money, although that is an important component. There are other very significant questions, such as those the honourable member knows in terms of renewing our teaching professions, student assessment, better access, all of those things.

WINTARIO TRAVEL GRANTS

Mr. Rowe: I have a question of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. On Monday, June 15, I asked him why he cut back provincial government funding for the Provincial Women's Softball Association of Ontario. In response to this inquiry I made on behalf of this important sports group and the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty), the minister said, "I can assure the member they have not been cut back."

Since I do not want to have to accuse the minister of misleading the House, I wonder if he would be like to try and answer my question again today.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: When the honourable member asked me the question the other day we were referring, I think, in my reply, to some of the school sports being supported by our ministry. I said at that time they had not been cut back and indeed that some \$30,000 had been added to that program.

There are other programs in which we have provided funding. Many of those programs have not been cut back, but we provide a lump sum to that particular program and it is distributed from within that program by the people involved.

Mr. Rowe: I was not discussing school sports then and I am not now. I am talking about the Provincial Women's Softball Association.

Given that response, can the minister explain why Paul Finley, a sports consultant with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, told the executive members of Softball Ontario last month that their Wintario travel grants would be cut from 50 per cent in 1986 to 27 per cent in 1987? That is a drop of 13 per cent, and it sure sounds like misleading information to me.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I will review the figures the honourable member has given. I can assure him it will not be cut from 50 per cent to 27 per cent.

[Later]

Mr. Rowe: I rise to correct the record. In my question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, I stated that Wintario travel grants would be cut from 50 per cent in 1986 to 27 per cent in 1987 and I stated a drop of 13 per cent. To correct the record, it is a drop of 23 per cent.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Minister of Financial Institutions and it follows up on the revelation by my leader yesterday about the tremendous increased profits of the insurance companies, particularly at a time when the motorists and other insurees in this province are suffering excessive rates and great injustices.

Is the minister aware that the same Statscan figures from which those great increases of the insurance companies' profits came show that while the total premium income over the last two years was up 39 per cent, the total of claims paid out was up only 17 per cent? Would he not agree that gives the lie to the insurance company statements that massive claims increases are forcing up the premiums in an unconscionable way?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member continually raises these questions, and I am saying we have a solution. Support our rate review board. It will be able to examine all these areas and it will be able to make a determination. That is what it will be there for.

PETITIONS

THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition which reads:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do hereby petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to reject the recommendations of the Powell study. We understand that this study recommends the opening of government-run abortion clinics. We believe that there are already too many abortions done in this province and would like to see access restricted and not made easier."

It is signed by 53 people from the southern part of my riding.

CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Hennessy: I have a petition which reads:

"We, the undersigned taxpayers and concerned parents, reject the decision made by the school trustee committee regarding south zone rural school consolidation on the meeting of May 12, 1987. That decision being that Blake and Slate River schools be consolidated in one school situated at the Slate River school site, and that Riverdale, Vickers Heights, Rosslyn Village and Rosslyn Road schools be consolidated in one large school of approximately 462 students at the Rosslyn Road school site. We ask that the school

board consider this and other petitions presented before making its final decision."

I am presenting this to the Minister of Education, hoping that he will look into the matter. It is signed by approximately 400 people of Thunder Bay in the riding of Fort William. I am sending it over to the minister at the present time.

Mr. Speaker: There are quite a number of private conversations. They may be necessary but they are quite noisy.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Sheppard: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

1510

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. Allen: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the government of Ontario from the parents and students of St. Bernard School, Gloucester South, which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, express deep disappointment in the Ministry of Education. Your recent budget failed to meet the financial needs of St. Bernard School in Gloucester South. We have been petitioning the CRCSB for funds for the much-needed extension. St. Bernard's total student capacity is 315. Our present enrolment is 530. Change rooms are being used as classrooms. Remedial work is done in the hallways. We have a schoolyard full of portables whose students must enter the main building to use the washroom facilities. Our kindergarten portable is in dire need of repair, or better still, in need of demolition.

"Despite our appeal to Mr. Gilles Morin, MPP, the school board trustees and Mr. Cousineau of the ministry (all agreed that the school should be slated for immediate action) nothing was done.

"We urgently request that the Ministry of Education capital allocations be reviewed and the money we so urgently need for our school be found."

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Laughren from the standing committee on resources development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill 151, An Act to amend the Ontario Highway Transport Board Act;

Bill 152, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill 150, An Act to regulate Truck Transportation.

Motion agreed to.

Bills ordered for committee of the whole House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Shymko moved first reading of Bill 93, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Shymko: The bill adds Remembrance Day to the definition of "public holiday." Presently, under subsection 26(2) of the act, employees are entitled to a paid holiday for each public holiday, and Remembrance Day would be such. This is through the urgency of our veterans, who have asked that in the private sector they be treated the same way as those in the public sector.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS QUIETING ORDERS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 94, An Act to amend the Municipal Corporations Quieting Orders Act.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPAL PRIVATE ACTS REPEAL ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 95, An Act to repeal Certain Private Acts Related to Municipalities.

Motion agreed to.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: I would like to inform the members that pursuant to standing order 30, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to a question given by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney). This matter will be debated at 6 p.m. today.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Consideration of Bill 79, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

On section 3:

Mr. Chairman: We have in front of us Bill 79. When we departed yesterday, I think we had in front of us or were beginning Mr. Martel's motion to do with section 3, proposed clauses 22c(1)(c) to (e). There was apparently some compromise or there were some negotiations going on.

Mr. Martel: I think we have consensus on the next three amendments, which we worked out over the evening and on into today. We can move them individually. I do not think it is going to take very long. Perhaps I could move the first one. I do not think there is going to be any disagreement, so they should move quickly. We will do them one at a time rather than in the way I had suggested yesterday, because we now have an agreement.

Mr. Chairman: Are you moving the same amendment?

Mr. Martel: I move that clauses 22c(1)(c), (d) and (e) of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(c) furnished by the employer to the medical officer of health of the health unit in which the work place is located;

"(d) furnished by the employer to the fire department which serves the location in which the work place is located; and

"(e) filed by the employer with a director."

Mr. Chairman: Excuse me. That (e) was "filed"?

Mr. Martel: "Filed by the employer with a director."

Mr. Chairman: Right. Can I have a copy? That is not the same as the copy I have.

Mr. Martel: Yes. I am giving you my only copy, Mr. Chairman. Because we are going to get consensus, there will be no vote on it anyway, so I will leave that with you.

Mr. Chairman: Do you wish to move all three together to be discussed at one time?

Mr. Martel: Yes. Let us move all three of them.

Mr. Chairman: Is that correct, member for Sudbury?

Mr. Gordon: Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel moves that subsection 22c(2) of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

“(2) The medical officer of health, at the request of any person, shall request an employer to furnish a copy of the most recent version of the inventory or of an unexpired material safety data sheet, as the case may be.

“(2a) At the request of any person, the medical officer of health shall make available to the person for inspection a copy of any inventory or material safety data sheet requested by the person and in the possession of the medical officer of health.

“(2b) A medical officer of health shall not disclose the name of any person who makes a request under subsection (2) or (2a).”

Mr. Chairman: I had that written down originally as Mr. Wrye's amendment. Correct?
1520

Mr. Gordon: I wonder if we can back up on this for just a second with the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel). Do I understand that what we have agreed to, under section 3, clauses 22c(1)(c), (d) and (e)—we have already agreed to those? Do I understand that, Mr. Chairman? We are just stacking the votes then?

Mr. Chairman: No. Yesterday there were separate amendments put in, and today they are slightly amended, but I believe Mr. Martel is moving three amendments together so that they can be discussed at the same time.

Mr. Gordon: Okay. So we have not voted on them as yet.

Mr. Chairman: No.

Mr. Gordon: Does this allow us to go back? For example, I have an amendment that I will be bringing forward in section 22a, a new subsection 6. Does that mean we can go back?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, because we have not carried that. We are still on section 3, so yes, you would be able to move that.

Mr. Gordon: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel, do you have a third amendment?

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence, I want to confirm something on this with my friend. It will take merely a second, because apparently there is a little glitch here.

Mr. Chairman: I think that is acceptable in committee.

Mr. Martel: I move that section 22c of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(4) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may by regulation establish dates by which the employer in any industry or class of industry must provide inventories or material safety data sheets under clauses (1)(c), (d) and (e). An employer to whom the regulation applies shall have until that date to comply with these clauses, unless the medical officer of health, the fire department or a director requests the employer to provide a copy of the most recent version of the inventory or of an unexpired material safety data sheets.”

Hon. Mr. Wrye: May I be helpful?

Mr. Martel: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The confusion my friend had was in line 4. He has “inventories or material safety data sheets” and it should read “inventories or inventories and material safety data sheets” so that both can be done. I will supply this and this will be the amendment. I guess you will have to read it, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

Mr. Martel has moved that section 22c of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(4) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may by regulation establish dates by which employers in any industry or class of industry must provide inventories or inventories and material safety data sheets under clauses (1)(c)(d) and (e). An employer to whom the regulation applies shall have until that date to comply with those clauses, unless the medical officer of health, the fire department or a director requests the employer to provide a copy of the most recent version of the inventory or of an unexpired material safety data sheets.”

Do we really mean “an unexpired material safety data sheets,” plural and singular both?

Mr. Martel: It should be "data sheet."

Mr. Chairman: Fine. Thank you. "Data sheet," singular.

We have three clauses that have been moved. What do we do with—and that is not anticipating a smart remark—the amendments to section 3, clause 22c(1)(e) and subsection 22c(2), that were delivered yesterday, one by Mr. Wrye and one by Mr. Martel?

Mr. Martel: Scrap them. They are replaced by the three we have given you today.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Martel has moved those amendments. Comment, please.

Mr. Martel: I will be extremely brief. We have reached agreement on these. I think it does what we were concerned about, in that it eliminates the necessity for people to write or phone for material. That includes the health unit or the fire department.

At the same time, it ensures the ministry has time to receive the material in an organized fashion, other than a mass of 50,000 substances coming in; and in that case, where the schedule has not been arrived at or the date reached, if an inquiry is made then the health unit, the fire department or the director has the ability to request of the employer that the information be forthcoming.

I think it covers all the bases all of us were concerned about, gives us what we were interested in ensuring and I think provides the ministry with the tools to be able to cope with the material when it comes in.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I share the views of my friend the member for Sudbury East, and I believe there is unanimity among the three of us, both critics and the minister, on this matter.

It had always been our view to ensure that this material came to the ministry and indeed to medical officers of health and fire departments in a logical order and in a way that, in particular, the fire departments and medical officers of health, who have many other things to do, would not be absolutely overwhelmed and swamped with material. I know something about being swamped, and I took note of that, and that was why we backed off on the earlier proposal to simply provide a flood of paper to the MOHs and the fire departments.

On reflection, I think what we have arrived at here is a very useful compromise. It allows for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to establish dates by which there must be compliance for any industry or class of industry. Over and above that, even in those cases where that compliance

date may not have been set, it allows any person to come forward to a fire department or to a medical officer of health and say, "I want information on industry X or business Y," and that will be provided. The amendments to subsection 22c(2) will allow that to happen, and I think what we have here in terms of community right to know is now a package that this Legislature can be very proud of.

Motions agreed to.

1530

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that section 22a of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"6. Except as may be prescribed, subsection 1 does not apply to an employer who undertakes to perform work or supply services on a project in respect of materials to be used on the project."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This restores a section of the bill which was taken out, I hope due to an oversight, yesterday. While we were attempting to put in a very important amendment that the member for Sudbury East had proposed—which I believe is the amendment which establishes February 1 of each year as the date on which inventories must be updated and must be filed—we simply, I am sure by mistake, took this subsection out. We are restoring it.

It really simply makes no sense except "as may be prescribed," and there will be some situations in which we will prescribe it, to demand this information on construction sites. In a word, it would create a very chaotic situation and that is why this has been put in. There are some exemptions to that rule and that is why we have made provision for those exceptions. I am sure my friends will want to support this amendment.

Mr. Martel: We agree that it has to go back. I hope the minister could indicate in a little more detail what is going to happen on construction sites because there is a concern. I can understand if there is a small project that is going to last two months, three months or something like that. One is not going to have time to file the inventory with the minister. Let us say we are talking about the domed stadium. I think that is going to be a lengthy thing.

I think what the minister is saying to us is that in projects of a substantial nature which are going to take a prolonged period of time to construct, or in fact if one is dealing with substances—let us say the reconstruction of a courthouse where one knows that there are substances—there have got to be ways that those things are signalled and the

ministry should have a way of coping with them. It might be helpful just to put that on the record, but we will support the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: In trying to be helpful, my friend has made a couple of useful suggestions. The size of project may be one criterion. The use of various substances within the project may also be a criterion. My friend yesterday raised the issue of asbestos. The use of various substances on a project may be another criterion. I say to my friend the member for Sudbury East that we intend to have discussions not only with the construction industry but also with the building trades council on this matter, seek their advice and we will then move by regulation where appropriate.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Yesterday we stood down an amendment by Mr. Martel to section 3 of the bill, proposed subsection 22a(2). That was stood down. If the members will recall, it was striking out "and" at the end of clause (a) and adding clause (ab). What do the members wish done with that?

Mr. Martel: The minister could respond. I understand there might be a serious problem with this one too for the minister, which he might want to explain today. I was not aware of it until I think just a very short time ago. I think all we were trying to accomplish was that the quantities be laid out so as to assist. I understand that poses a real threat in terms of the confidentiality problem that some producers might be faced with.

Maybe if I could hear what the minister is saying, then I might be prepared to withdraw it.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I want to be helpful here because the honourable member has just touched on a real problem. The amendment, as now written, would really get us very quickly into the whole area of trade secrets. If one were to spell out the hazardous material by quantity, then one very quickly would really violate, without wishing to, the trade secrets mechanism at the inventory level.

I know what my friend's concern is and I want to advise him and my colleagues in the House that some information in this area will be provided in the material safety data sheets, as I think my friend will know. The concentrations by weight in a range will be provided in the material safety data sheets. I remember the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) raising the issue yesterday of whether we could provide ranges. I think that really is the answer. It is not as if there will be nothing.

Some of the ranges of these concentrations will be provided in the MSDSs and, as my friend from Sudbury East will know, the medical officers of health and the fire departments will be under the added provisions that we have put in this changed Bill 79. This is an area where Bill 79, I would argue, is strengthened from Bill 101, in that there are going to be occasions when MOHs and fire departments will be provided with material safety data sheets. I think my friend will agree this will answer some of the concerns he has.

Mr. Martel: With that, I will withdraw that amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: I just stood and indicated to the Chairman that I was prepared to withdraw that amendment.

Mr. Chairman: You wish to withdraw that?

Mr. Martel: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other amendments? We have one by Mr. Gordon. Are there any more of yours to section 3, Mr. Martel?

Mr. Martel: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: I have one for 22h. Is that still standing?

Mr. Martel: Yes, I have a 22h.

Mr. Chairman: Fine, thank you. I will take others before that. I wanted to know if that was still standing. That is the only one we have remaining in section 3 on section 22. Correct? Thank you.

Mr. Wrye, there is one here in section 3 to subsection 22c(4).

Mr. Gillies, I had one from you, subsection 22d(1) and subsection 22d(3).

Mr. Gillies: That is still standing.

Mr. Chairman: Fine, thank you. I think we are at the point of moving those—no, sorry. We have another one before that. Mr. Gordon, we have one in section 3, a new subsection 22a(6). Do you want to move that, please?

Mr. Gordon: I believe that a new subsection 6, "The employer shall provide the director and any other prescribed agencies with a floor plan of the work place showing the names of all hazardous materials and their location," is perhaps a way of—

Mr. Chairman: Let us get things straightened around. You are moving that a new subsection be added to section 3 of the bill, proposed section 22a of the act, which perhaps should be a new

subsection 7, since there was a new subsection 6 added.

1540

Mr. Gillies: I will try to be a little helpful on this. Yesterday, Mr. Martel moved an amendment to 22a, which at the time I agreed to and I still think it has some merit. That section was the one which would have the floor plan of the plant on the exterior of the building with the location of hazardous chemicals on the floor plan so that in the event of a fire or other emergency the fire department would know where they were located. I think the thrust of that is something we would all agree to.

The concern has been brought forward to our party that the public posting, if you will, of such chemicals on a building could be an invitation to terrorists in the event of the attempted theft or other illegal use of such materials. You are telling them where they are. This is the concern I just shared with the member for Sudbury East.

What my colleague is going to suggest is a change to the amendment, which we hope might be accepted on a friendly basis, which would have those floor plans for the plants, including the locations, on file with the fire departments and other authorities, so that when there is a fire at ABC Chemicals, they take it with them and know where the stuff is, as opposed to looking for it on the building.

Mr. Martel: That really will not provide the protection. In the middle of the night there is a fire and people rush out to fight the fire and then they have to run back and say, "Wait a minute, we have to look at company ABC and we have to pull the file and we have to get it out of the computer"—it is three in the morning—"so we know where these substances are located." Can you imagine the panic as people try to get somebody who knows how to operate the computer to get it to flip out before they start down the road to fight the fire?

Firefighters do the whole thing in a matter of seconds. They are down the pole and into the fire truck and gone; then somebody is going to say, "Wait a minute, we have to go back and find out what company this fire is with and we have to pull it out of the computer to know where the substances are located." It is not going to happen, because who is going to have time? Who is going to take the time to know precisely what company, get it out of the computer and tell the firemen where the substances are? Are we going to wait around for that to happen? People will be in an absolute panic. Does the member think they are

going to wait around two, three or four minutes to start to seek out this information?

I moved the motion I did because it is convenient—I do not care where you put it on the building; it could be at the front near the entrance, something like that, in some sort of container which will not be breakable—so people can come and assess what it is or where it is or what procedure they are going to use before they start to fight the fire.

What we are asking firemen to do today is to go into a fire, into a major building, not even knowing what is there. They are the ones who risk their lives. They do not know what they are up against. They do not know if there is flammable material next to something that is explosive, or that if two compounds come together they become flammable when originally they were not, or whether two things coming together are going to blow the place to hell. We ask firefighters to do that every day of the week, willy-nilly. I just think there has to be a better way.

The job is dangerous enough without asking firefighters to go in to fight something blind. At least let us give them the tools with which to proceed in an organized fashion. To suggest we leave it at the firehall and hopefully it is going to catch up to them somewhere—the firefighters have to see it and have it with them. That is why I say, if you have it at the site and it is on a building, they just look at it and the fire chief or lieutenant has something with which he can advise the workers how to best proceed.

I can recall the case of a couple of firemen dying and it was not anything that was explosive. In fact, bundles of paper, rolls of paper, were stacked and they got so wet. The firemen did not realize that, and they walked into this bloody building and the things collapsed on top of them and crushed them. There is no necessity for that. We have to give them as many of the tools as possible since they cannot refuse to work. We have to give them as much protection as possible for them to fight that fire. I think the only way we can do it is by having the material right there so they can read it.

Mr. Chairman: It may be helpful to the members to know that Mr. Martel's amendment from yesterday was stacked, the one about posting it on the exterior of the work place. That vote has been stacked to the end of the bill. I just want to let the members know that.

Mr. Gordon: The member for Sudbury East has an obvious and very genuine concern when it comes to the health and safety of workers, and

also of course for the firemen being able to find the source of the fire and the location of the hazardous goods. But I suggest to the House that in the age we live in today, many fire departments across Ontario make it a practice of going to industry and commercial establishments, saying, "We would like to look around your premises because we would like to identify where some of the natural fire hazards are, whether they be chemical, paper or certain areas such as a computer room, in a firm."

They want to know where it is and they draw up a map of that firm. They put that map on file. They put it in the computer. When there is a fire, what the modern fire department does is that as soon as the firemen get to the scene, if they have not already identified the exact number of the building where the fire is taking place, it is immediately flashed back to the station house and they say: "There is a fire at ABC Chemical. We have located the building." Those data are immediately flashed forward to the fire truck. As a matter of fact, many of them are now beginning to carry that kind of information with them.

One might say, "Are you sure, Jim?" Yes, I am sure because, for example, they do that in the city of Sudbury right now. For years the fire department has been going around to various establishments identifying the floor plans and memorizing them, so that when the firemen get to the building they know where to go. I am suggesting in this House that the chemical company would file an inventory with the fire department, as well as a map of where certain hazardous goods are. That is on file. The fire department has it. There is no mistake about where they are going or what they are going to do when they get there.

I suggest this is a better way to do it than to say to all the companies in Ontario that might have some kind of chemical hazard on their premises, "Post something outside so that when the firemen get there they will be able to find it." Can the members imagine it? You tell me to post something outside. You tell the Minister of Labour who runs company B. You get the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) who has company P, for pollution. We are all going to make our own little map, just as in kindergarten.

Do the members know what the map is going to look like? There are going to be 10 different maps, some that anybody in kindergarten could read and others that even the most sophisticated person could not figure out. We will get some intellectual in one of these chemical companies and he will come up with a grand design. He will

even put little blocks and little modules on the paper. When the fire department gets there, they will not even be able to read it. Who is to say it will remain legible after a period of time? Are we going to lay down regulations and specifications for some kind of time capsule that is made out of plexiglass? I think not.

We do not want to give this to arsonists, terrorists or saboteurs, or people who are looking for chemicals to do God knows what with. Maybe some young adolescents have discovered that a certain chemical will give you a better high even than angel dust or any of those other things that are out there. We are going to post it on the front of the building? I think not. The responsible thing to do, I suggest, and I am sure this would more than satisfy the member for Sudbury East, is to see that the fire department has the map and that it is going to be flashed immediately to the fire truck or be part of the fire truck's computerized system and will do things in an up-to-date and modern way.

I think the Minister of Labour is going to welcome this friendly amendment, and so will the member for Sudbury East from the New Democratic Party.

1550

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I do not think we are terribly wild about this amendment either but I think it is better than the one now stacked for a vote. I think all of us are concerned about the issue we are trying to address here, and that is providing the greatest possible amount of information for fire departments in the case of fires, in the case of these dangerous situations. I do not think there is any disagreement in any party on this. The question is how to do it.

There really are a number of problems with the amendment which stands in the name of the member for Sudbury East and which is now stacked for a vote, and I think at least some of the problems have been overcome by the amendment proposed by the member for Sudbury. I will not go into it, but the member for Brantford mentioned that the member for Sudbury East's amendment really is an invitation to terrorists and burglars. It is impractical in some cases, and I do share that concern also with the member for Sudbury's amendment. There are going to be some companies where there is almost more information than can be put on a floor plan.

I guess, on balance, my greater problem and the reason I am inclined to accept the amendment of the member for Sudbury—and that the government will support the amendment of the member for Sudbury and not that of the member for

Sudbury East—is that in a very practical sense, in a great number of fires, the ability of the firefighters to get close enough even to see the floor plan is going to be at risk. If it is in the part of the building where the floor plan has been posted on the exterior, that wall could have collapsed before the fire department even gets there.

I believe it probably would have been better to do all this by regulation but, if we had our druthers, we would go with the amendment of the member for Sudbury. I do not share the concerns of my friend from Sudbury East on whether fire departments will be able to access this information quickly. Because they are more concerned than we are about the health and safety of their own firefighters, I am sure they will develop very quickly methods of accessing this information almost instantly in the event of a fire and literally within minutes will have these floor plans with the indications of where the hazardous materials are located on site.

One of the problems with that—and it is a limitation I hope we all understand—is that those hazardous materials move from place to place within the factory and within the plant. Obviously, there is going to be a bit of a guessing game, but perhaps as we develop the floor plans, it can be indicated that the hazardous materials move from place to place in the plant. Certainly, anything which will be proposed and which will be given here will be superior to what we have now.

I would simply ask the mover of the motion, the member for Sudbury, if he would accept a very small friendly amendment, that is, where it says, “the employer shall provide the director,” to make it say instead “a director.” I would move that the word “the” in line 1 of the amendment to subsection 7 be struck and the word “a” be substituted therefor.

Mr. Chairman: That is an amendment of an amendment. If you want to get a little less fancy, perhaps Mr. Gordon will change it. It is the fifth word in the first line which is changed from “the” to “a.”

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I will give it all to the member for Sudbury, if he will accept it.

Mr. Gordon: I would so move.

Mr. Chairman: Good. Thank you. Further comments on the amendment?

Mr. Martel: Let me make just two short comments. I know all the fire departments beyond Sudbury and Toronto have computer equipment. They really do, those little firefight-

ing departments in the unorganized townships. I know Fort Erie has a computer and it is going to be able to relay that as the firemen are travelling along to the fire. That makes me feel secure and I am sure it is going to make the firemen in all these other localities that do not have computers feel secure. They know all they have to do is press a buzzer and it is going to flip out and tell them where everything is.

When it comes to the latter point, it blows my mind, quite frankly. What was the word they used?

Mr. Gillies: Terrorism.

Mr. Martel: Terrorism. My God, we have to be careful of the terrorists. We have lots of them in northern Ontario. We have them in the Bruce Peninsula. I know in Erie they have more terrorists than you can shake a stick at. We really have to be fearful of that.

I do not think with this sort of amendment—and I can understand why the minister is going to accept it. All the prattle from my friend the member for Sudbury about whether we are going to have something that is fireproof or waterproof—What is he talking about? What we want to do is protect people.

The minister got up and joined in. He said: “It must have been a long fire. It must have smouldered all night through spontaneous combustion or otherwise it blew the hell out of the building.” I want to know the fire, in the first five minutes when the fire truck is there, that is on the outside and so dangerous people cannot get near it. There they are now with their firefighting equipment standing next to the building pouring water into it. All I am saying is: have something outside so the firemen know full well what it is they are fighting with.

What the minister has done by accepting this amendment is do the firefighters a disservice. I want to tell him that every fire department does not have computers yet. If he wants to risk the lives of those firemen, he should accept that amendment. What he is doing is putting firefighters, where there are no computers, at risk, because they will never have the information. The minister can play all the silly games he wants with my friend from Sudbury, but where there are no computers that means firefighters will not have the protection so that they can look at the material they are going to fight in the fires they are exposed to.

If the minister wants to say “Put it 50 feet from the building” so be it, but he should not pretend that everybody in this bloody province has a

computer on which to draw. If he is saying that, he is nuts, and so is the member for Sudbury.

Mr. Gordon: Certainly it would not be my intention to prattle on about this, but I would suggest to the House that in communities in Ontario that are as small as the member for Sudbury East has suggested, if they did have a chemical plant, I think it would be incumbent upon the fire department to have the plan sent to it and to do a little bit of homework as part of its daily duties.

Without listening to the derogatory terms coming from the member on my left, I might point out that volunteer fire departments in this province are well known for the fact that they spend endless evenings wanting to learn more and more and more about the hazards that happen to be in the area they are serving. They spend many, many evenings. I am certainly not going to downgrade those volunteer fire departments or their members. I think they can learn this material and even they, if you quizzed them, would tell you it is a much superior way to do it.

What are we going to do? Are we going to go out and delegate, first of all, a special form? We are going to have to bring people in from all over Ontario to teach them how to make this special form that is going to be hung up somewhere. Is it going to go up on a chainlink fence? Is it going to go up on a red brick building? Where is it going to go?

I am not going to carry on any further. I just had to get up, when I hear terms like "prattle." What can I say?

Mr. Martel: What about "plagiarize"?

Mr. Gordon: "Plagiarize" too. There is another term that is coming from the left.

1600

Mr. Martel: That amendment came, like so many others the member was going to move, from the list I handed him the other day and which he was prepared to use. Only his critic, who carried the bill yesterday, had the decency to say, "I will not try to move those, because I know full well they are the ones you presented on Thursday afternoon." Do not give me prattling.

I want to say there are volunteer firefighters as well—small brigades in the north, things like that—where they will never have a computer. My friend shakes his head, but I recall just two years ago, a volunteer organization fighting a fire in the north—the Ministry of Natural Resources, to be exact—where people were seriously injured because they did not know. They were inadequately trained.

He makes it sound so simplistic, as though everyone has the equipment with which to do it. I do not see any problem, I say to my friend, the minister. I look at every company. They have a sign outside—in glass, under lights, most of them—spotlighting their products. Now, that is important; that sells. However, to protect firefighters, who have one of the most risky jobs in the business, we say, "We are going to put it on the computer or they can memorize it all."

There is somebody here from the city of Toronto—I want to know how many plants we are talking about that firefighters should have imbedded in their skulls. "If we go to plant X, these 273 substances are there. If we go to plant Y, it is another 500 substances. You remember where they are." My friend the member for Sudbury says it is simply a case of memorizing.

One studies at night. How many companies in a fire station? How many streets? How many blocks? There could be 1,000 companies. What my friends are saying is, "Well, they can remember them all. They can remember the amount of designated substances. They can memorize the location for each of those substances." Who are the members trying to kid? Who in God's name are they trying to kid—that one can put it down to memory?

I cannot get over the terrorists. That is the one that really clinches it—the terrorists. We have got to watch them.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I cannot let all of this go—and I really have some reservations about involving myself in this family feud from Sudbury. However, I say to my friend from Sudbury East, I really do not need a lecture from him on whether we are nuts or not. Here we have placed a better amendment, which in my considered judgement will provide for the health and safety of firefighters in a better way than is proposed by my friend from Sudbury East.

I do not know where my friend from Sudbury East comes from out of left field—he always comes out of left field—with his idea of computers. I suppose we will put all of these floor plans, in his view, in a computer. I would think that in a few fire stations they are going to have these floor plans right in a filing drawer. When the fire begins they will open the drawer and pull out the floor plan. Even in this high-technology era of 1987, it will get no more sophisticated than that.

Mr. Martel: You are crazy. You are mad. Keep going, Bill, and they will memorize it all.

Mr. Warner: You are the Mad Hatter.

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry, I did not realize the minister had completed. I was listening to the Mad Hatter.

Mr. Haggerty: If anybody works in the industrial sector, and I have worked in it as a millwright, I will tell you this much: If you come into a hazardous area in any of the plants, they usually have a sign there. Some of them even have a plan, mapped out on a steel plate. It tells you every check valve there is, so in case of an event, a fire, in this particular area or that tank, one knows where to go to shut off the valve, to check it there, so it does not spread through the building.

Normally, this is available inside the plant doors, for the workers. However, the member for Sudbury East said it should be on the outside. Yes, I quite agree with him. There should be something out there to warn any firemen going in there.

Mr. Breagh: We do not want to intervene in this family dispute.

Mr. Haggerty: No, but I just draw to members' attention, those who are not familiar with the industrial sector, that this is what takes place. I suggest that there are a number of fire departments that do have an index of all the hazardous materials located throughout the community. Normally, when the alarm comes in and there is a street number, they will pull the file out and say, "Yes, there is hazardous material there," and they can disperse the equipment. But I suggest that when you get into a larger chemical plant, then they do have ways of informing the employees themselves of what to do in that event.

One of the things I think the member for Sudbury East forgot to mention in this warning is that there should also be a sign out there that tells you how to neutralize that chemical. Sometimes water, if you want to put it that way, may cause further gases out there that may be of a serious, toxic nature.

I suggest the member has a good point.

Mr. Martel: Thank you. May I ask the minister about the split in the family, the feud?

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further comments on Mr. Gordon's amendment? There being none, this is Mr. Gordon's amendment to section 3, proposed section 22a, and it is a new subsection 7. Shall that carry?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Martel: I have my own section. Could I ask the Chairman, before he does this—

Mr. Chairman: No, it is carried.

Mr. Martel: No, just a moment. Let me ask the Chairman a question for help then, for guidance. You already have a section in here on a

stacked vote, and you are now accepting another amendment to a different section, which is essentially the same motion.

Mr. Chairman: No, they can both exist.

Mr. Martel: All right, I just want to know that; because we are going to have to vote on the first one when we come to it in a little while.

Mr. Chairman: I looked at that before, and not only are they technically sectioned in different ways, but one is stating, "Put it on the outside of the building," and the other is saying, "Provide records to certain people." So I do not find them at all contradictory. Thank you.

Now, the next amendment. Mr. Gordon, I believe you have two amendments, subsection 22d(1) and subsection 22d(3).

Mr. Gordon moves that subsection 22d(1) of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be amended as follows:

"Where so prescribed, an employer shall assess, through an independent laboratory approved by the joint health and safety committee, all biological, chemical and physical agents produced and used in the work place to determine if they are hazardous materials."

Mr. Gordon: To be very brief on this, obviously we know that very little is known about the majority of biological, chemical and physical agents that are in the work place. This gives the workers, under the aegis of the joint health and safety committee, the power to see that these chemicals and biological and physical agents are assessed by an independent laboratory if they so wish.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Are there further comments?

Mr. Martel: It is interesting, as I watch my friend the Minister of Labour on this one, because both the Tories, when they were in power, and the Liberals of the time, opposed premarket testing.

Actually what you are doing is not premarket testing. I guess you are going to prescribe the testing of some 50,000 substances, and I would agree with that. Yesterday I called for premarket testing of all new substances, and at the same time I called for the testing of all those substances in the work place, because we really do not have one substance known in the work place that has been fully tested.

Yesterday I quoted at length the statistics from studies done in the United States, so I am delighted to support this amendment, which for the first time is going to demand testing of all

substances in the work place. It is a great shift by the Tories. I am delighted with it.

1610

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The member for Sudbury East will not be surprised to hear that we shall not be supporting the amendment.

Mr. Breagh: We do not even care.

Mr. Warner: That is irrelevant.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That may be; indeed that may be totally irrelevant.

Mr. Breagh: Wait till we hear from the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty).

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That is two out of three falls and it seems to be we do not get to round three; I am not absolutely certain I can carry the caucus on this.

We will not be accepting the amendment. We believe the amendment is far too inflexible. In some cases, the employer could do the assessment in-house if he has the facilities; and any further tests, if they are required, could be required under section 28. Without getting into it in any great depth, we will not accept the amendment and we will not be voting for it.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further comments on this section?

Shall the amendment of Mr. Gordon to subsection 22d(1) of the act carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Chairman: I believe the member for Sudbury has an amendment to subsection 22d(3), but again I think it is a bit incomplete. I believe this is a new section. You might move that this be added, some wording to say that it be added to section 22d of the bill.

Mr. Gordon: The motion reads: "The employer will cause an independent laboratory, approved by the joint health and safety committee, to regularly test air quality in each separate work place of a factory, mine, mining plant or project and the results of this air testing will be made available to the workers as established in section 22d, subsection (3)."

I so move; and I might add—

Mr. Chairman: No, can I carry that; or at least get it on the record?

Mr. Gordon moves that a new section 22d(3) be included or added to section 3 of the bill, which states as follows:

"(3) The employer will cause an independent laboratory, approved by the joint health and safety committee, to regularly test air quality in each separate work place of a factory, mine, mining plant or project and the results of this air testing will be made available to the workers as established in section 22d, subsection (3)."

I am a bit confused about the reference to section 22 at the end, subsection 3. Really, would that not be what we are dealing with now? Do you really mean that subsection?

Mr. Breagh: Do you not really mean that the amendment is out of order, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Gordon: Like hell it is.

Mr. Chairman: The chair is trying to be very helpful with these many amendments, many of which are a little—

Mr. Martel: No, ours were not.

Mr. Breagh: Rule them out of order and let's proceed.

Mr. Chairman: No, I am asking a question here. If he means subsection 22d(3), that is the very number of the amendment he is proposing.

Mr. Martel: I think we better find out if this in fact is going to jazz up the WHMIS agreement. If I understand the WHMIS agreement, this sort of thing might in fact—actually I am not sure, but would the amendment being proposed at present—

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Do you mean subsection 22d(3)? Subsection 22d(3) has nothing to do with WHMIS.

Mr. Martel: That is right. I just do not know if this—

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Subsection 22d(1) did not have much to do with it either.

Mr. Martel: The last one. Let me speak to this motion then, because—

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Chairman, it is my motion.

Mr. Martel: Well then you might get up and present the damn thing.

Mr. Gordon: Why do you not sit down?

Mr. Martel: It is out of order to start with.

Mr. Gordon: Unless it comes out of your bailiwick it is no good.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Would both members please sit down?

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. In fairness, not everybody has had their amendments in tickety-boo shape when they were presented. We have been very lenient with some of the amendments. Maybe it would be easier to stand this down for

the moment, go on to the next amendment and then I am sure the member for Sudbury will be able to tell me whether that is exactly correct.

Do I have unanimous consent to stand this down?

Mr. Gordon: You can stand it down temporarily. Then we will come back and debate it.

Mr. Chairman: Right, thank you. The next amendment I have is from the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling), an amendment to section 3, proposed section 22d.

The member for Carleton-Grenville moves that section 22d of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"2. On the request of an employee, an employer shall make an assessment to determine the levels of tobacco smoke present in the area or areas of the work place in which the worker works and the degree of hazard to workers in each such area."

Mr. Sterling further moves that subsection (2) of the said section 22d, as printed, be renumbered as subsection 22d(3) and that the said subsection 22d(3) be amended by inserting after "one" in the first line, "or two".

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Before the member speaks to the substance of this, I would ask that the Chairman rule this amendment out of order. I would cite paragraph 725 of Beauchesne in which, as the Chairman will know, it says, "A motion for leave to bring in a bill, the objects of which are substantially the same as those of a bill upon which the House has come to a decision in the current session, is out of order."

The member for Carleton-Grenville has Bill 71 before the House right now, which deals as well with the hazards of smoking. I think it can be argued in this case that passage of second reading of that bill—and indeed the bill has been to committee—is "a decision" of the House.

1620

I would further argue that under standing order 117: "It shall be an instruction to the committee of the whole House to which bills may be committed that it has the power to make such amendments therein as it thinks fit, if they are relevant to the subject matter of the bill, but if any such amendments are not within the title of the bill, it shall amend the title accordingly and shall report the bill to the House."

I think the fact of the matter is that this amendment, well intentioned as it is—I have no problems with the intention that my friend brings in this amendment and I want to make that

clear—but it is totally and conceptually different, as are a number of the other things that are going on here, from the provisions of Bill 79, which deal with inventories, labels and material safety data sheets.

Bill 79 is integrated with a federal bill—which is, I believe, this afternoon receiving second reading in the House of Commons and which will pass the House of Commons this Friday—which specifically excludes the subject matter of the motion.

I ask you, Mr. Chairman, to rule the motion out of order.

Mr. Sterling: I find it rather amusing that the Minister of Labour uses my private member's bill, Bill 71, the Non-Smokers' Protection Act, as one of his bases for calling this motion out of order. The fact of the matter is that Bill 71 has languished in Orders and Notices waiting to be called for third reading since January of this year.

The fact of the matter is that this government continues to ignore the significant problem of controlling smoking in the work place. Bill 71 does not deal with testing of smoking in the work place; it deals with controlling smoking in the work place and is my preferred approach to dealing with this particular problem. However, we have a government which continues to ignore the whole problem and continues to stonewall on it. I have asked the ministers at various times during question period and estimates what their objections are to Bill 71. They keep saying, "We have no objections"; yet they do nothing.

On a second point of order, Mr. Chairman: The minister says this is introducing a new matter into the bill. I would argue very strenuously against that. If you read the explanation of the purpose of the bill in the explanatory note, this bill is being created for two different reasons. One reason is to have employers "prepare inventories of hazardous materials," and the other is "to provide information to their workers respecting hazardous materials and hazardous physical agents" in the work place.

Then we go to subsection 22d(1), which says that "an employer shall assess all biological and chemical agents produced in the work place." The limitation in this particular section is that it is prescribed. It limits this to those particular biological and chemical agents that would be prescribed by the government, in other words by order in council.

What I am attempting to do here is to prevent the government from not acting on the chemical and the biological pollution agents that are produced by tobacco smoke. We know it is a

hazard, and I just do not trust this government in regard to prescribing tobacco smoke in its regulations. It has sat on its hands for six months on Bill 71, the Non-Smokers' Protection Act. Members of the government have indicated their lack of desire to deal with this problem.

I would argue strenuously that in fact this government, under subsection 22d(1) could prescribe tobacco smoke as one of the biological and chemical agents that an employer was responsible for testing, as provided under 22d(2). All I am doing here is preventing the government from not prescribing or regulating tobacco smoke as one of those biological and chemical agents.

Mr. Chairman: I have looked at the various references cited by the minister. He referred to section 725 of Beauchesne, I believe. That talks about "a motion for leave to bring in a bill, the objects of which are substantially the same," and so on. Here the member for Carleton-Grenville is not bringing in a bill but is bringing in an amendment.

The minister also referred to standing order 117, where it says, "It shall be an instruction to the committee of the whole House to which bills may be committed that it has the power to make such amendments therein as it thinks fit, if they are relevant to the subject matter of the bill."

When I look at the explanatory note, it talks about hazardous materials and hazardous physical agents. To try to find out what hazardous materials are, because the amendment of the member for Carleton-Grenville refers to hazards, I look for a definition in Bill 79 and I see that hazardous material means a hazardous material as defined in the regulations and a hazardous physical agent is a hazardous physical agent as defined in the regulations. Since we have no regulations in front of us, that does not help me.

As far as the federal bill is concerned, and the argument of the minister that the member for Carleton-Grenville's amendment has something to do with the subject matter of a federal bill, the chair has no way of knowing what the federal bills are or what is happening in Ottawa.

For that reason, I am ruling the amendment in order.

Mr. Sterling: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will speak to the substance of the motion.

On this particular amendment—

Hon. Mr. Nixon: That from the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven)—

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Nice job. Rule by consensus; keep working on it.

Mr. Harris: You have had this bill here for over a year. You have done nothing for workers.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The member for Carleton-Grenville has the floor.

Mr. Sterling: The Minister of Labour injects a remark directed at our House leader: it is this government that has refused to do anything on this particular matter, so let us get on with it.

Mr. Chairman: Can we restrict ourselves to your amendment—

Mr. Sterling: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday when I was speaking on this particular matter, I would have preferred that this government do something with regard to controlling smoking in the work place. This amendment at least gives employees one small right in dealing with smoking in the work place. It gives them the right to know how bad it really is and what the hazard is that is associated with that particular tobacco smoke.

As I said yesterday, this particular amendment deals with what is perhaps the most common hazard in the work place across Ontario. Therefore it is appropriate that it be put in this bill and that it be dealt with by this government at this time.

I say to the minister we have been shaking our heads too long. We have not been doing anything in this regard. The minister has allowed the city of Toronto the right to pass bylaws to control smoking in the work place, but he continues to ignore me and the questions I have placed on behalf of 30,000 people in Ontario who support Bill 71; he just cannot keep going by and shaking his head and doing nothing.

Therefore, I ask the support of the members of the Legislature for this particular amendment.

Mr. Martel: I must tell members that this morning my colleagues approved a nonsmoking item with our union. I do not think this would do anything to the work place hazardous materials information system agreement.

The minister is going to have to convince me that it would, because WHMIS as I understand it—in fact the minister should have been on his feet when we did section 22d. The minister, if he had been smart, should have been on his feet telling my friends to my right that in fact the WHMIS agreement, part of it, is that it is not a testing program. That is part of the agreement he has with the feds and that all the provinces joined in on. But the WHMIS agreement is not specifically a testing agreement.

Of course, the reason I love to support it is that I have been advocating in this House for years that we have to premarket-test all new substances before people are exposed to substances being either used or sold.

Yesterday, I referred to thalidomide and the fact that we did not premarket-test it and the dire consequences. The same applies here. The minister was not on his feet saying: "Wait a minute. Clause 22(d)(3) is a violation of the WHMIS agreement."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: We have not done it yet. Wait until we get to it.

Mr. Martel: Yes, we have done the first part; it is the second part. The minister should get on the ball. Is it subsection 1?

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: They tell me subsection 1. All right, we have done that. So the minister has a contravention to start with. Of course, my friend has studied the bill.

But I cannot see how this one violates anything, because I say to my friend the minister that he has put in the community right to know and that does not contravene the agreement. The minister is going to have to explain to me how it contravenes the federal agreement; otherwise my caucus and I have decided we should support this amendment, because we think it is time we got serious about it.

I am one who smokes the odd cigar occasionally. I am going to suffer when we bring that into our caucus, because I cannot even smoke in my own office any more. That is how ludicrous it is. I cannot smoke at home. My wife does not let me smoke at home. The only place I can smoke is in my car, so no one can travel with me in future. The only place left I am going to be able to smoke is in my car.

I want to hear what the minister is going to say. As I say, we will support this unless he can convince me that it is a violation of the agreement.

Mr. Dean: If it is in order, I would like to say a very short piece in support of the amendment we are discussing right now.

It seems to me it has to be a very obtuse or uncaring person who would think that it is not a hazardous material to have tobacco smoke in your environment. Although I am not a smoker myself, I do not consider I am a fanatic about it, because I have endured a lot of smoky meetings and other smoke in the work place. But there was ample evidence brought to a committee of this Legislature last fall, and earlier than that in 1986,

specifically about secondhand smoke. That is really one of the things we are talking about here.

As a person who tries to love his fellow man and woman, I am concerned about the person who is smoking. But it is a deliberate decision on the part of that person to smoke, and except for the fact that it creates a very onerous burden on society to care for the illnesses that develop in himself or herself as a result of that person smoking, that is his or her business.

However, the effect of the sidestream smoke, as it is called, has been amply demonstrated by many tests, examinations and surveys. I do not think there is any doubt that it is a major health problem. It is a major concern about people in the work place and the environment there.

I have here a brief account from the Canadian Press that was published in many newspapers on February 27, 1986. It is headed with what should be an arresting headline: "Secondhand Smoke Kills 500 Canadians a Year." It is the result of a study that has been done of the causes of death.

Because of that concern and the fact that investigation has shown that the kind of smoke you get from an idle cigarette that is just smouldering in an ashtray or that you get coming from a smoker if you are near that person—I am quoting—"That kind of smoke contains much higher concentrations of many toxic and cancer-causing chemicals than does mainstream smoke." That is the kind of smoke the smoker inhales, because the smoker frequently has some of it filtered out. Also, chemically speaking, it is at a cooler level and, therefore, the material is more stable and more likely to cause problems.

I would like also to refer members of the committee to a further statement from it.

"It is not surprising because of this to note that involuntary smoking"—that is, what happens when you are in the work place, a social place or anywhere else, but we are talking here about a work place—"has been associated with cancers at multiple sites, not just the lungs. It includes the lungs, the nasal sinuses, the brain, leukaemia, lymphoma, the breast, uterine, cervix and endocrine glands," according to the study.

This is almost incredible, Mr. Chairman, but I know that you as a fair-minded person, even though you come from Oxford, will believe that secondhand smoke contains more than 3,800 chemical compounds, more than 50 of which are potential carcinogens or known to be hazardous to health. If a nonsmoker is exposed to that kind of atmosphere for even 20 hours a week, he will inhale between one per cent and 20 per cent as much of those poisonous materials as active

smokers do. That is from the Department of National Health and Welfare.

The study parallels recent US studies which estimated that 5,000 American nonsmokers die annually. Involuntary exposure to tobacco is the second-largest cause of lung cancer in the US, between the first-largest cause, active smoking, and the third-largest cause—I know my friend from Sudbury East is concerned about coke-oven work, but coke-oven work is less of a hazard than secondhand smoke.

I think there is no doubt that action should be taken on this bill. Where else in our society do we cater to the needs of addicts? Are we going to say next, because somebody requires cocaine to feel good, that we are going to allow that in the work place without testing to see whether it is harmful?

I do not need to prolong debate on it except to remind members there is ample support for this sort of thing from such august groups as the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, in a considerable essay it has written on the subject, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control. Besides the actual sickness, there is also the absenteeism and the high cost to industry and to fellow workers of the absence of the people who are involved in this.

I urge the minister to see the value of this and to come out like a hero by supporting the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: First, I would raise with my friends opposite—the change of heart in the third party overnight is astounding, breathtaking.

Mr. Martel: I am not changing.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: My friend from Sudbury East—

Mr. Laughren: You have no friends in Sudbury East.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Well, the member for Sudbury East.

It will be interesting to see how the employer will assess the degree of hazard to workers in each such area. That will be interesting. It will be quite enlightening because eminent scientists the world over cannot do that, but we are now going to try to do that in Ontario.

My friend the member for Sudbury East wants a reason to try to convince his caucus to get back to the position he originally espoused. Let me just point out to him that what this bill is—as we go on, we seem to be losing track of what this bill is—is a bill which is a tandem bill with the federal amendments to the Hazardous Products Act. I know it is a bill which ultimately is to provide warning labels, material safety data sheets and

training and education. That is what is defined when it says “provide information” in the explanatory note. We are providing information in terms of warning labels and material safety data sheets.

1640

Where one talks about hazardous materials, again while I can have all the sympathy in the world for my friend’s position, this amendment in a sense is an empty amendment, though one which may well upset the delicate balance. There is a delicate balance that people in this Legislature appear to be forgetting. I think my friend the member for Sudbury East understands that; if he does not, he has not been talking to the leadership of the labour movement and the leadership of industry lately.

The amendment to section 22d proposed by the member for Carleton-Grenville will do absolutely nothing. If I can take my friend back to the beginning of the bill where we define “hazardous material” as a biological or chemical agent named or described in the regulations, the reason it will be named or described in the regulations is that it will meet the definition nationwide and will meet the WHMIS definition now being put on in the amendments to the Hazardous Products Act.

The WHMIS consensus and the federal legislation being debated this week specifically exclude tobacco and tobacco products. Much as the member may be well-meaning on this, and much as this Legislature, if it votes for it, may be well-meaning in doing so, it will be an exercise in futility in terms of the definition of a hazardous material. Nothing can flow from it, because tobacco and tobacco products are one of a number of items that are specifically excluded.

WHMIS is intended to apply to products that are sold for use in the work place. Tobacco products do not fit that description. As I said, tobacco and tobacco products were specifically excluded from the WHMIS consensus. I should point out to my friend that also excluded from the consensus are consumer products and manufactured articles. Tobacco smoke is therefore specifically excluded and, second, is excluded as a byproduct, the use of a consumer product and a manufactured article.

To support the motion would be to violate the WHMIS consensus, which the federal government and our sister provinces are attempting to reflect. In this case, it is somewhat different than the community right to know and the inventory issue, which went beyond the WHMIS consen-

sus but did not in any way violate it. I would argue to my friend that this goes beyond it.

I would hope my friend the member for Sudbury East and members of his party would remember three long years of difficult negotiation between industry, labour and government and would realize and accept that there was some give and take. Perhaps they would leave this issue to be dealt with, as quite rightly it should be, at a later time and on a later date, and not deal with it here, where to do so might have the unhappy result of upsetting a balance that is very delicate. It might not, but even if it does not, I would say to my friend the member for Carleton-Grenville that because the issue of tobacco smoke is not caught in the definition of hazardous materials, one may be able to do a consensus but nothing will come of it.

Mr. Sterling: I guess I have a question of the minister. What happens if this Legislature decides, as it has decided on various other sections, to extend the scope of the legislation in other areas? What happens, for instance, if the minister brought in a bill tomorrow—I am not holding my breath that he might—that did the very same thing? What is going to happen to Ontario? Ontario will have a law that will take care of workers in the work place to a greater extent than will those in other provinces. So what is the big deal? The minister does not object to that, I presume. He is not arguing about whether this can go beyond or to another step.

I think when you enter into an agreement with the federal government and with other people, you decide that you are going to meet a bare minimum. Then if the Legislature in its wisdom desires to go beyond that agreement—to expand, to go deeper, to protect the worker in the work place in a wider focus—it is free to do so. This is what we are elected here to do. We can go beyond. That is what some of the amendments here have done in terms of other parts of this particular statute.

I do not know how he refers to the definition section in terms of dealing with hazardous material. I thought the section stood on its own, in conjunction with those other sections, because it does not really refer to hazardous material. It does not rely on the government to say whether tobacco smoke is a hazardous material or not. It is an assumption in the amendment that it is a hazardous material, and that will be what the law of Ontario will be, that tobacco smoke is a hazardous material. The section is self-explanatory in terms of dealing with it. I just do

not follow the minister's arguments along those particular lines.

I would be very upset if the Legislature did not desire to pass this, because it is not within the purview or the thinking of this government to do anything about controlling smoking in the work place. This would be the first step in doing that on a province-wide basis. I do not think it is enough to leave it up to municipalities to decide on a one-by-one basis across this province to deal with smoking in the work place.

Mr. Martel: I think we have to get something clarified. I said to the minister that he would have to convince me, and he tries to turn it around in a silly way. What I was trying to find out was whether acceptance of this is considered a testing program which would violate the WHMIS agreement. Rather than deal with it seriously, as he usually does, the minister tries to make someone else look as though he is not with it.

I go back to the minister and I say to him that if we cannot test, then maybe he should tell me what the rest of subsection 22d(1) means: "Where so prescribed, an employer shall assess all biological and chemical agents produced in the work place for use therein to determine if they are hazardous materials."

If that is not a testing program, then what is it? That is why I was asking him to indicate whether this is considered testing. If it is, what does that section do? If the WHMIS agreement is not a testing program—and that is what my understanding of it is, that it is a labelling program. I indicated that yesterday when I spoke. I did not think it was such a hot bill, and I did not think we really had made much progress. It took five years, not three, as the minister would suggest. The whole process started in 1982, and it has taken five years to get here. It is really a labelling/data-sheet/education process about what is being used in the work place.

I tried to twit the minister about earlier sections which had been passed—I guess it was subsection 22d(1), the amendment of my friend the member for Sudbury which called for all the testing. The minister, who is so slick on his feet, did not even notice that. My research staff sent that to me immediately. Let me read the note. They said: "Wait a minute. This is a violation of the WHMIS agreement."

The minister gets up in his usual smart way. He did not even have the brains to get up and say: "Wait a minute. If subsection 22d(1) is calling for all the testing, then it is a contravention of WHMIS." He gets up 20 minutes later, when somebody finally goes over and pats him on the

shoulder and says, "Buddy, you are wrong," and he tries to get smart with somebody else in the Legislature. He did not even understand his legislation, and he certainly did not understand the agreement.

Instead of trying to score cheap brownie points, he might tell us what section 22d means, whether it is testing or not, and what WHMIS is all about, whether it is testing and whether it is a contravention of the WHMIS agreement if we are testing and therefore it endangers the WHMIS agreement. That might be helpful.

1650

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Yes, subsection 22d(1)—because it requires testing of those used in the work place—is testing. Thus, it is a violation of WHMIS.

Subsection 22d(2) is questionable. I say to my friend from Sudbury, it may stand alone because tobacco and tobacco products are excluded from the definition of "hazardous materials."

Mr. Martel: Deal with them separately, if you would.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: With subsection 22d(1), we have just violated WHMIS and I am not sure whether we will on subsection 22d(3). I do not think so. But certainly, subsection 22d(1) does. My view would be that subsection 22d(2) does not violate WHMIS in that tobacco is not caught under the definition. If I can be helpful to my friend, this is my problem with this whole amendment. I do not have a problem with where my friend from Carleton-Grenville is trying to go, but it just stands alone. In essence, the amendment as proposed has nothing to do with this legislation, because this legislation is to deal with hazardous materials, hazardous physical agents and to provide information on them.

Since, for purposes of this bill, tobacco and tobacco products are not considered to be hazardous materials—my friend would argue they are, but for the purposes of this bill, they are not; they are of no consequence for this bill—I do not know where, in essence, this amendment goes.

Mr. Martel: Might I help the minister? I notice that the government House leader has vacated the premises, but the Minister of Labour might implore his colleague—I realize it almost looks like blackmail, and it might be useful blackmail to some degree—he might ask his House leader if he is prepared to call item—

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Bill 71.

Mr. Martel: Yes, we might get out of this dilemma if he could find his House leader. Call him—I know he has escaped—and say to him,

"Look, Robert"—pardon me, I must apologize to the chair—"the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, Treasurer, Minister of Revenue, government House leader"—what else?—"acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, if they want to call Bill 71 today or tomorrow for third reading, that might get us off the hook."

I understand full well what my friend is doing. He is forcing us—not us; this Legislature—to call a bill which has been endorsed by all three parties but for some strange reason the government does not want to bring forward. I do not blame him a bit in pushing it that way, because he has no other recourse, having appealed, pleaded, begged, coaxed and coerced the government to do it. Now he forces them by this route, which becomes a detriment to another piece of legislation, so he might look for Bobby and ask him if he is going to call that.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I could raise that with my colleague the government House leader at the appropriate time, when I next see him, but it would be my view that if Bill 71 proceeds, it should proceed on its merits or perhaps there may be other ways to deal with the problem. I know that members of the government, including myself and other ministers, have been working quite diligently on a comprehensive package of changes and they will come forward at the appropriate time. I think my colleague the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) has indicated that before.

I would suggest to my friend from Sudbury that as I look at this, to be quite candid, I think there will be a very real concern among the business community of having this added to this particular piece of legislation. I am not sure. I think it will be very difficult to assess the degree of hazard. I do not know really what happens out of this. As I said, it is almost a stand-alone item. I understand what my friend is getting at but I really do not think this piece of legislation is the place to do it, and I can only say I hope the House, and I hope my friend the member for Sudbury East and the members of the third party will not support the opposition on this matter.

Mr. Sterling: The section has been ruled in order. The Minister of Labour says this particular section does not contravene the WHMIS agreement. The minister has not opposed it on principle. We are going to be voting, I presume, and this vote will be stacked at a quarter to six.

Mr. D. W. Smith: When you are finished.

Mr. Sterling: Whenever we are finished this bill, at a quarter to six or whenever, when the votes are stacked. If the government House

leader gives me assurances that he will call Bill 71 before that vote is called, then we can deal with it in that particular manner. That gives the House leader an hour or so to talk to me about it.

Mr. Martel: Let us stand it down.

Mr. Sterling: No. Let us carry it.

Mr. Chairman: Shall Mr. Sterling's amendment to section 3, proposed section 22d, carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Chairman: We stood down Mr. Gordon's amendment that section 22d of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be amended by adding thereto the following:

"(3) The employer will cause an independent laboratory approved by the joint health and safety committee to regularly test air quality in each separate work place of a factory, mine, mining plant or project and the results of this air testing will be made available to the workers as established in subsection 22d(2)."

Those are the sections the way they stand now.

Mr. Gordon: First, I think we all recognize in this House that it is long overdue that those people who are working in the mining industry, in the smelters in northern Ontario, have a right to know what kind of air they are breathing.

If we were to examine the past, we would see that many of the workers who worked at the smelter or in a sintering plant have died of cancer. They died of cancer because they did not know the hazard and no one bothered to test to see what was going on. Today, those men's widows live alone without their husbands. Those men are not around to see their grandchildren. They are not around to see the quality of life they could have had, because, cavalierly, government thought it was not necessary.

I say to this House that it is necessary that the air in the work place be tested to see what chemicals are there, to see what is contained in the dust in the uranium mines.

Just a week ago here in this Legislature the widows of gold miners came to see us to talk about their husbands, to ask for justice, to ask that they be compensated for their husbands being gone due to silicosis.

1700

This motion that has been put forward which says, "The employer will cause an independent laboratory approved by the joint health and safety committee to regularly test air quality in each

separate work place of a factory, mine, mining plant or project and the results of this air testing will be made available to the workers as established," is the kind of information workers must have.

We have too many instances today where working people are coming back to the government, they are coming back to their members, they are going to the Workers' Compensation Board and they are saying: "I am sick. I am sick with this particular illness, with this cancer, with this bronchial condition or with this skin condition because of the chemicals and because of the kind of conditions I work in."

Do the members know what is said to them? What is said to them is: "We cannot prove that, you know. Do you have anything you can base that on?" Those workers cannot go back and get a sample of the air 10 years ago, 20 years ago or 25 years ago. Those workers have every right to know when they leave their houses to go to work and when they leave their families that they are going to a work place that is as safe as we can humanly, possibly make it. That is the right of every working person.

Would the members of this Legislature demand any less? When they leave their homes to travel here to be legislators and to pass laws, would they expect any less than that: that they are going into a safe place, that the air is not going to kill them, that it is not going to create skin problems, bronchial problems, heart problems or cancer problems?

I can remember well one summer about 14 years ago when I went out to my dad's place. He was building a wall at the time and he was not feeling well. I said, "Are you not feeling very well, dad?" and he said, "No, I am not." He was not a man who ever complained. He very seldom told you what was bothering him or why, but he turned to me and said, "Jim, you know, anyone who worked in the gold mines as long as I did cannot expect to have good health." I never forgot that.

I never forgot that because he was not talking about operating a diamond drill and he was not talking about climbing mine ladders. What he was talking about was the work environment, the quality of the air and the kinds of dust that he worked in. He was dead five days later. He got his cheque from the federal government the same day we buried him. That is the kind of problem we have in northern Ontario. That is the kind of problem we have in southern Ontario.

When the minister says he cannot support the testing in the motion that reads, "Where so

prescribed, an employer shall assess, through an independent laboratory approved by the joint health and safety committee, all biological, chemical and physical agents produced and used in the work place to determine if they are hazardous materials," when the Minister of Labour says he cannot support that testing, then I have to say to him that in the year 1987 the workers of Ontario who work in establishments where chemicals are being used and where the air is poor can have little faith in what this government offers them.

I have to repeat what the member for Sudbury East has said. He is right on the money when he asks, what good is an inventory, a list of materials? What good is a list? In fact, I would say this to my colleagues here today: What use is right-to-know legislation when you do not know what you are handling in the way of chemicals and when you do not have the right to see that those chemicals are being tested? What good is a right to know if there is nothing to know?

I say to the members that the testing of chemicals, whether they be biological or physical agents, should be an absolute requirement in this last half of the 20th century. We have to have the moral fibre and we have to have the concern to see that it happens. I would urge this Legislature to pass both of those motions; they are long overdue. If those sintering plant employees could rise from the dead—prematurely dead—they would come into this House and say, "You people are going to be condemning more and more workers in this province to death unless you are ready to test these agents."

Why would they say "more and more"? Because every schoolchild knows—and I would point this out to the Minister of Labour—that if there is one thing for sure in our society, it is this: that we are producing more and more chemicals and more and more goods out of chemicals. This is having a profound effect on the lives of our people. So much so that we know today, even though the Ministry of Health and many doctors are not willing to admit this, that there are people who cannot even leave their homes, who have to find what they call "environmentally sound" places to live because the materials we are using in this part of the 20th century have virtually made them into people who are very, very ill if they are exposed to nylon carpets or any kind of goods.

Yes, it will cost some money; it will cost industry some money; it will cost government some money. But if the minister looks at the unfunded liability right now of the Workers'

Compensation Board, it is at \$5.8 billion. If he goes to the WCB, it will tell him: "Oh, we are very sorry, but no one can prove the reason they died in a gold mine or the reason they died at the sintering plant or the reason they are going to die in increasing numbers in the uranium mines is a result of what they are exposed to."

No one can prove that is the way it is; we do not test for those things. So you are not compensable, you cannot get a pension. Unless you hurt your back or have something wrong with your shoulder or have some ailment that you can see with an X-ray, that is due to some degenerative type of breakdown, you are out of luck.

I do not think that working people, other human beings, should have to face that kind of life, and I do not think their widows should have to face that kind of life, either. Do not forget that when these guys die, they leave behind a wife and a family. Not only that: usually, when they do pass away, it is after 20 or 25 years of illness, which means that man and his family have not had the kind of quality of life that many other people in this province are able to have because they do not work in those kinds of conditions.

So I say to members as legislators, would they be prepared to come into this place if they thought that hazardous chemicals and the air were going to kill them? What is good for the goose is good for the gander.

Mr. Martel: As one who was involved in the fight on behalf of the sintering-plant employees back in the early 1970s—1971, 1972, 1973—I want to tell you, Mr. Chairman, the greatest resistance was from the Conservatives. I find that strange. When I was involved in the battle over the miners in Elliot Lake with my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and my leader then, Stephen Lewis, and Linda Jolley, we had to fight the government of the day tooth and nail. I was involved in the Bendix situation in my friend's riding a long time ago on behalf of Lucie Dunn. I wish I had got some support years ago as we waged this lonely battle.

I can recall demanding premarket testing of substances many years ago, and the minister of the day and the staff of the Ministry of Labour frowned upon me, sneered at me. I am delighted today that we have someone speaking out in addition to me on behalf of this battle. I must tell this Legislature the first question I ever raised 20 years ago was on occupational health and safety, and now 20 years later we have made that much progress. People still die by the hundreds because we have not had a government that has

had the courage to really get out there and protect working people.

1710

Members have all heard me day after day harass my friends across the way on health and safety. I guess it depends on where one sits. When the minister sat on this side of the House he used to join in with me. Now that he is minister, it is somewhat different. My friend, when he was on that side of the House, did not say much. Now he is over on this side of the House he joins in with me. I am delighted to get the support when people are on this side of the House. It would be nice if I could get some support some day for people who sit on that side of the House and make the laws. Just think what we could do for working people.

It is funny when the sides change the great concern for workers dies very significantly. On Saturday, I heard Vic Pulkanis say in Sudbury, "The minister's number one priority in his ministry is health and safety." I said to the minister yesterday, "If you want to give workers, the greatest protection you could possibly give them, you would give them power on the committee system." It would do more than all the legislation we could combine, if workers had equal power. I have given them more power in my bill, but if they had equal power even. If the minister were sincere, when he has his staff saying it is the number one priority, if he wants to give them protection he should give them the power to protect themselves.

I love the amendment, as I did clause 22(1)(d), which called for the testing of everything; and this one calling for the testing of air everywhere. I have complained in this House until I am blue in the face about testing being done with the windows open. All I have asked for is that people be there when the testing is done to make sure it is guaranteed that it is under the conditions workers work under. I have not even been able to move it that far yet.

If workers knew that the conditions being tested were the conditions they were exposed to the rest of the day, not just when somebody from some ministry or some consulting firm is in there testing, I could feel secure; but workers are fired when they go to watch tests being conducted, they cannot leave their work place.

I have said to the minister, give the workers some power and let us stop the mayhem. I have to support this amendment in my heart. I have been advocating it for 20 years. But what do I do if it kills the WHMIS agreement? I know that is what the minister is going to say. As little progress as

that has been, and it has taken five years to get there, do I risk that five years and have nothing? If I risk that, I blow everything.

It has taken organized labour, management—which has been the real resistance to it, I might add—10 provincial governments, the federal government and the territories five years to reach an agreement. I wish with everything I had I could support that today, but I risk everything else; and so I am forced into a position where I have to say no, I cannot afford to blow it.

I suppose someone will go around the province and say, "See, Martel backed off." But I know the fight we are in and everything we have to take. One thing in this party I am particularly proud of is that we have had to take on everybody. People who are on the other side do not understand. They say, "You guys come on so strong all the time." But when you are taking power away from those who have all the power, economic and otherwise, they surrender it so miserably.

We are not making much progress in WHMIS, but it is more than we have. I am not prepared to blow it, despite my own conviction that, by Jesus, we should test everything before people are exposed to it.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I can understand the concern and the dilemma which faces my friend the member for Sudbury East on subsections 22d(1) and (3). I understand and appreciate what he is saying.

I say to my friend that there are a number of points I could have made within the amendment itself where the wording is really quite unworkable. I take both members back to subsection 22d(1), which has the same problem; it prescribes that "an employer shall assess." All this shall be done through the joint health and safety committee; of course committees are not in all work places, and that is another problem with the wording.

I just say to my friend opposite that he knows, as I am sure does my friend the member for Sudbury, who spoke eloquently of his concern about air testing, that this is really an issue for another day.

As my friend the member for Sudbury East points out, we have made some progress under WHMIS. I say quite sincerely to all members of the House, tripartite progress was made only after a great deal of compromise among the parties. Quite frankly, my colleagues in both opposition parties would be aware that this is quite an unusual compromise. Over the last two

to two and a half years, that compromise agreement almost came unstuck a few times.

These matters under subsections 22d(1) and 22d(3) are really matters that could cause the agreement to become unstuck. In addition, they are in violation of WHMIS. Also, subsection 22d(3) is quite hopelessly flawed. What does "regularly" mean? What does "each separate work place" mean? There is the fact that it is only committees. What are we testing air quality for?

For all those technical reasons, but also for the main reason that it begins to move against the WHMIS consensus, the government will not support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Gordon's amendment to section 22d will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel moves that section 3 of the bill be amended by adding thereto as a section of the act the following:

"22h(1) The council of a municipality may by bylaw name one or more persons to act as an enforcement officer for the purpose of sections 22a to 22g, inclusive; and,

"(2) An enforcement officer appointed under subsection (1) has all the powers of an inspector for the purposes of enforcing sections 22a to 22g, inclusive."

Mr. Martel: I understand the purpose of the bill is that the Ministry of Labour bears the responsibility for going out and inspecting. I do not think there is anyone who has pushed harder over the years than I to get the minister and the ministry to do that.

But we say "may" here; we do not say "shall." There are only certain municipalities, like Toronto or maybe Windsor, that might want to do that. I say to my friend the minister, it is not compulsory. Most municipalities will not do it because the health units simply do not have the funding. In my own area—and I have checked with a number of other health units—they do not have the funding to go beyond their mandate. In fact, most of them tell me they cannot even meet their mandate.

1720

There is a division in Toronto. By the way, I have worked with some people from Toronto to prepare this. There is a split. The council, I think, has adopted it. I am not sure the mayor is pushing it very hard. What the minister is going to say is that the mayor does not want it. That is right, but

the mayor did not carry the day. The members of council who were on that committee carried the day; they are looking for the authority. I understand it rests with the minister, but he needs all the help he can get.

Since the minister has only 241 inspectors for the whole province, he needs another 1,000-plus; and since he is not going to get them, he needs all the help he can get. A municipality such as Toronto, which has two million people at least, could relieve some of the burden on his staff, even though the main purpose is with the Ministry of Labour.

We do give the community the right to know. The lead problem in the riding of Riverdale has been there almost since the day I came here. I remember my colleague the late James Renwick arguing that thing, it has to be back 15 years ago, and trying to get it. Nobody had a right to go in; yet kids were allowed to play there. As I said yesterday, there is no barrier. There is not a wall big enough to keep all that in. That material does not know the fence is there, theoretically, to keep it in; it goes between the cracks.

If Metropolitan Toronto has the ability to hire people to help, that is a benefit, that is a plus for us. If they want to pass a motion to do so, we should say to them: "Heaven help us; Billy Wrye has only 241 inspectors. He cannot do the job." As I said in the House yesterday, I know an inspector who has 1,400 facilities which he has to look at. He will never get there; never. In five years he still would not inspect them all. If they want to provide some help—it is "may" in the act, which does not make it compulsory—should we not be seeking help wherever we can get it?

I would urge the minister to accept this amendment because, first of all most municipalities will not do it because they do not have the funding, but we should be prepared to accept the help of those prepared to do so unless; the minister can assure us he is going to be able to have and hire enough staff to do the inspections of the several hundred thousand work places in this province—but he ain't going to get it.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I want to indicate at the outset that the government will not support the amendment. Because it is so all-encompassing—I am sure my friend understands how all-encompassing he made the amendment; I do not need to point that out to him—it has thus created municipal enforcement of WHMIS, contrary to the WHMIS consensus. He just spoke about his concerns about violating the WHMIS consensus, and that is the effect of this amendment.

Obviously, in certain areas—and understanding and not wishing to enter into a polemic on whether we have enough inspectors and what they do—it does duplicate the effort of the ministry and could result in conflicting decisions by both municipal and provincial authorities. Having an opt-in for Toronto and maybe for Windsor and elsewhere could provide uneven enforcement across the province.

I will say to my friend that I had an opportunity this morning to meet with a delegation from the city of Toronto, including Mayor Eggleton and Alderman Layton. We had a very positive meeting. We reviewed with those individuals the proposed amendments to section 22c. In doing so, I think they came away very supportive of the effort that resulted in the amendments put by my friend this afternoon.

I did indicate on the key matter they are concerned about, the one outstanding matter from Friday's motion in council, which is to allow the medical officer of health to go in to verify inventories, that we would not support this amendment for now, but we would consult with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and review the matter ourselves. Should we decide to do it, we would do it in one of two ways: we would bring it forward as an additional amendment under general amendments to the act, or we would simply allow it through a private bill mechanism.

I say to my friend, I am not rejecting the concept Toronto has asked for, of allowing municipalities to involve themselves with the enforcement of inventories, but I think it would be more useful to have more time, particularly to consult with the association of municipalities. I think my friend would agree with that.

Second, I think he would understand that what is proposed in his amendment to section 3 of the bill, in the new section 22h, goes far beyond what any municipality—the city of Toronto or the city of Windsor—has asked. It would set out enforcement powers that are quite unacceptable under the WHMIS consensus and would turn over to the municipality the job of the province. We will not be supporting the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Shall Mr. Martel's amendment to section 3, adding section 22h, carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other amendments to section 3? No.

Section 4 agreed to.

On section 5:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel moves that subsection 29(4a) of the act, as set out in section 5 of the bill, be amended by striking out "may" in the fifth line and inserting in lieu thereof "shall."

Mr. Martel: If we look at it, it says:

"In addition to the orders that may be made under subsection 4, where an inspector makes an order under subsection 1 for a contravention of section 22b or 22f or a director has been advised of an employer's inability to obtain an unexpired material safety data sheet, the inspector may order that the hazardous material shall not be used or that the thing that causes, emits or produces...."

If it is a hazardous substance or if they think it is a hazardous substance, why should they have the right to say, "We think you can continue to work with it"? I do not think that should be discretionary. If it is hazardous to someone's health, there should be no discretion: "You do not work with it."

If they want to bring in equipment and so on—What we do is we force them to write the order. If they are going to have to use some sort of protective equipment during the process until it is cleared up, so be it. We should always err on the side of safety, I say to the minister. If it means writing an order that they have to use a respirator for a week or so, fine.

To say it is up to the discretion of the inspector is a lot of baloney. When I think about three inspectors who have been sensitized themselves when testing isocyanates for the ministry, I say there is something wrong. If the minister cannot even protect his own staff from becoming sensitized to isocyanates and will not ensure the appropriate equipment, then I say to him I am not prepared to allow his inspectors the discretion.

He has to say to them, "Write the order." If the Tories weasel out of this one, then all the platitudes I heard a few moments ago from the member for Sudbury are not worth a tinker's damn, because what this says is, if there are hazardous substances or we think they are hazardous, it is not necessary to write an order.

1730

He should read it carefully, because if he does not, then all the rest has been huff and puff. I say to my friend the minister, I hope he makes it mandatory and says: "You write the order. If it takes 10 minutes to clear it up, so be it. If it takes half an hour to clear it up, so be it. If it takes two weeks, we will err on the side of safety." I

suggest to the minister he should accept the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I would always wish to err on the side of safety, but here the matter is really a technical amendment. If we were to change "may" to "shall" on the stop-work subsection, it would require an inspector to issue an order where the employer has acted immediately to comply with the act. In other words, as I am advised, if a warning label fell off a canister and was lying on the floor, the inspector would have to write an order, in spite of the fact that the employer could pick up that warning label, put it back on the canister, put some Scotch tape on it and the order would be complied with. The inspector would then still have to write the stop-work order.

I want to remind my friends of subsection 22b(3) of the bill, which places a duty on employers to "ensure that a hazardous material is not used at a work place unless the prescribed requirements concerning labelling, material safety data sheets and worker instruction and training have been complied with." So the bill already contains an absolute—not a partial but an absolute—prohibition against the use of the hazardous materials, unless these matters have been complied with.

It certainly would be my view that the discretionary reference would be used very rarely, in only the kinds of circumstances that I have described, but I am advised that this wording is the appropriate legislative wording in the circumstances, and so the government will oppose the amendment.

Mr. Martel: If the inspector writes the order and it is complied with, then the order does not matter, does it? The guy puts the label on the container, he tapes it on, the order that has been written is immediately complied with, and the ball game is over. Then he just walks away. The order has been complied with. It is there. I have listened to some of the silliest arguments in the past five days about this act. Really. To say, "Well, this is the type of thing we are talking about"—spare me.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further comments on Mr. Martel's amendment?

All those in favour of Mr. Martel's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Sections 6 to 9, inclusive, agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: It was unanimously agreed yesterday that the vote would be held at the end of the bill at an agreed-upon time. According to the standing orders, it is a 10-minute bell.

Mr. Harris: Ten minutes may be enough, and I am not trying to prolong the vote, but we were specifically requested originally for a timed bell at a quarter to six. In fact, we agreed to that, but then the New Democratic Party said: "No, that is no good. We would like to vote at the end."

We did not agree to a specific time. We agreed, at the end of it, that that is when we would vote and we agreed not to have a specific time, and I would suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that unless you allow all members to know what that time is, then there is no way you can just limit them to a 10-minute bell.

Mr. Chairman: We had unanimous agreement to vote all stacked—

Failure of sound system]

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I think you have hit on the solution. I do not think your reading of standing orders is correct.

I am reading standing order 120(f), "where the time for a vote in the House is pre-arranged by agreement of all parties, the division bell shall be limited to 30 minutes."

Mr. Chairman: This is committee.

Mr. McClellan: Well, then your previous suggestion was that we apply common sense by unanimous consent and take the vote at 5:55 p.m., or when the whips can get here.

Mr. Chairman: What I am hearing is a specific time—

Mr. McClellan: My suggestion is unanimous consent to wait for the whips.

Mr. Chairman: An unlimited bell. Is that unanimously agreed? I am hearing no.

Ms. E. J. Smith: There was no agreement on time, in hopes of holding it earlier. It certainly was not in hopes of holding it later than 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: It was unanimously agreed to hold it at the end of the bill. That is where we are sitting now unless there is unanimous consent to differ from that.

Ms. E. J. Smith: It was agreed in discussion they would hold it as soon as possible and not—I think we discussed 5:45 p.m. and then discussed the option of sooner. We certainly never discussed an option of later.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, the simplest thing, it now being about 5:35 p.m., would be to let the 10-minute bell happen. We will try to have

the vote at 5:45 p.m. If the whips are not quite ready, I think we would all be agreeable to delaying it slightly, but we should try to conclude this bill today.

Mr. Chairman: It was agreed the bill would be stacked. It is stacked and the vote will be held. It is a 10-minute bell.

Mr. Harris: That is not what the member suggested. I do not know why you think an unlimited bell means we are not going to vote. We will vote when the whips are ready. With respect, Mr. Chairman, you said a 10-minute bell when a time is agreed on. We have not agreed on a time. We never agreed on a time. We said in the normal course, when the bill finishes, we will have the vote right away. That means, ring the bells and if it takes an hour, that is when we have it.

Mr. Chairman: Excuse me, the chair is going to differ. The time that the—

Mr. Harris: I am challenging the chair's ruling. You can vote on that for the next half hour.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Let me finish my sentence. It was agreed that the time of the division would be at the end of the bill.

Mr. Harris: Right.

Mr. Chairman: Correct.

I seem to have advice that we have an either/or. We will have the 10-minute bell in the way standing order 121(b) calls for or, if the whips are not ready at that point, the bells will continue to ring until the whips are ready. Good. Unanimous? Agreed.

1757

The committee divided on Mr. Martel's amendment to section 2, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 19; nays 68.

Section 2 agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. Gordon's amendment to section 3, proposed subsection 22d(1), which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 28; nays 59.

The committee divided on Mr. Sterling's amendment to section 3, proposed section 22d, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 26; nays 61.

The committee divided on Mr. Martel's amendment to section 3, proposed section 22h, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 19; nays 68.

Section 3 agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. Martel's amendment to section 5 which was negatived on the same vote.

Section 5 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with certain amendments.

SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Pursuant to standing order 30(b), the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made. The member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) has given notice of dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) concerning the expansion of the bursary program in Ontario universities.

The member has up to five minutes to debate the matter, and the minister may reply for up to five minutes.

Mr. Foulds: I am not satisfied with the answer from the Minister of Community and Social Services to my question on the desperate need for speech pathologists in northern Ontario on a number of grounds.

To start with, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has made him the fall guy. It is the Premier, as Minister of Northern Development and Mines, who said last February, "If it is easy to solve we will solve it." When I suggested to the Premier that it might be nice if he would solve the problem even if it were difficult to do so, he replied, "It will take another week in that case."

Now, four months later, the Premier passes the buck back to the Minister of Community and Social Services. It was this minister, ironically, who wrote to me as late as June 5, 1987, saying: "Because the MCSS bursary program has been in existence for only a few years, discussions regarding this program are ongoing. I have asked my regional director in northern Ontario to bring this matter to the attention of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. In the interim I regret I cannot provide you with an immediate resolution to this issue."

Yet yesterday, the Premier, as the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, passed the buck back to him, the Minister of Community and Social Services. This was in spite of the fact that the Deputy Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Mr. Tough, said last February: "We can say that we are seized of the need to make a major expansion in the program and we

expect to have some details on that very shortly.” Further: “We will make a public announcement very shortly thereafter.” Four months later, nothing has happened, and the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) has not knocked the heads together in his ministry to make that bureaucracy respond to the need.

Talk about the blind leading the blind or, as T. S. Eliot would say, “Here we go round the prickly pear, the prickly pear, the prickly pear,” and a prickly pear it is indeed. This government has a bursary program that is simply not working, because it is not available to those who need it, northern students who are forced to study outside the province because there are not enough spaces for them in the province’s universities, and the government has not created enough spaces for speech pathology in Ontario.

Very few, if any, northern Ontario students get admission to the two existing programs at the University of Toronto or the University of Western Ontario. The government needs to take the following three steps: First, it needs to double the number of bursaries available for northern students from the present nine to 20. But this will work only if the government, second, makes sure the bursaries are available to any Ontario student studying speech pathology inside or outside of Canada, provided that student agrees to return to northern Ontario to practise.

Third, it will work only if the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Sorbara) doubles the spaces available in Ontario’s universities from 35 to 70 by September. But the universities will not do this willingly; they must be shamed into it. They should be embarrassed that there are so few spaces in speech pathology in Ontario at the present time when there is such a crying need, not just in northern Ontario but all over the province. All three steps need to be taken concurrently.

If the present schools offering the program are reluctant to expand their spaces, as the Minister of Community and Social Services indicated yesterday, then I am sure that either Lakehead University or Laurentian University would be absolutely delighted to have permission and funding from the present government to establish a new program for speech pathology in northern Ontario. It makes sense to locate those spaces in the north.

The way the present system works, the admission criteria of the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto discriminate against northern applicants from Laurentian and Lakehead universities. For example, at Western Ontario, only five of the 25 positions at

the masters level are available to applicants from outside its own bachelors program. They get 125 applicants for those five spaces and they take them from the established universities like McGill University, University of Toronto and McMaster University.

Promises are not good enough any more. Northerners need action now, and the Premier, who made the commitments to me in February, must meet those commitments before this House adjourns. I am not satisfied. I will be satisfied when there is a speech pathologist in Elliot Lake. I will be satisfied when kids throughout the north do not have to wait a year for assessments, let alone a program. I will be satisfied when stroke victims get the immediate attention they deserve and I will be satisfied when the minister or the Premier announces the expansion of the bursary program and the expansion of spaces in Ontario’s universities, but not until then.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member indicated that the Premier, as Minister of Northern Development and Mines, indicated in February that within a few weeks an announcement would be made. I draw to the member’s attention an announcement I made, dated March 18, a few weeks after the Premier’s comments. I will read only the first paragraph, because I think it responds to his question.

“A total of 39 bursaries valued at \$251,000—a substantial increase over last year’s 20, worth \$128,000—have been awarded this year to graduate students in psychology, social work and speech pathology who will work in underserved areas in northern Ontario after graduation, said John Sweeney, Minister of Community and Social Services.”

As the member has just indicated, that is a doubling of the total number of bursaries that were given the year before. The honourable member will be aware of the fact that both my ministry and the Ministry of Health have bursaries. I would draw to the honourable member’s attention, simply because of the health-relatedness of speech pathology, that there are more bursaries awarded by Health for speech pathology than there are from my ministry, but we have to keep them both together. I would point out to the member that speech pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy are the bursary programs for Health, whereas for my ministry, speech pathology, psychology and social work are the primary ones.

As a matter of fact, the member did indicate that in the 1986-87 year, my ministry awarded

three speech pathology bursaries and the Ministry of Health awarded six speech pathology bursaries. Let us take a little look at the history. Since 1981-82 when this program was begun, Health has awarded bursaries for speech pathology and audiology—and as the member knows, those two go very closely together—to 24 students. Of those 24, only 14 are currently practising in the north. Three of them just simply handed the money back and said, “Thank you very much, I am going somewhere else.”

I was just advised today that in my ministry in the very first year of the program the two students who accepted the bursaries both handed them back. In this past year, of three students who graduated in 1986, two of them are in the north and one of them handed it back. As I just indicated, we gave three. We have no guarantee that they are all going to accept a job in the north. The point I am trying to make is that there has been a significant growth, and there will continue to be.

I am equally concerned with the member’s comment about northern students who want to get into these programs and have difficulty doing so. As I have already indicated to the member, I have shared that concern with the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) who shares it with us and with the Minister of Health. He is quite prepared, and in fact has already done so.

Let me go back for a minute. Following the February comments of the Premier, he indicated to the four ministers I have just described, “I want something done about this.” Our announce-

ment was something done about it. I would draw to the member’s attention again that the April 28 speech from the throne said—I will not read the whole thing—“The bursary program to subsidize their education”—speech pathologists—“will be improved.” The Minister of Colleges and Universities is speaking to the universities and is prepared to try to expand them. He does not have the authority to order them to do so.

As I indicated to the member yesterday, if by this coming September we cannot resolve this issue, we are quite prepared to look at students studying outside Ontario. As he probably knows, one of the students now is already studying at McGill University. We are quite prepared to take a look at some of the northern American states which have very good programs.

We have two concerns. First, the cost is about five times, and for the total package of dollars we have—and the member knows it is limited like everything else; I can get more, but there is a limit to what I can get—for one student, we have to spend five times as much money in the United States as we do in Ontario. That is just a factor.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Okay. I am just saying it is a factor to consider.

The second thing we have to be sure of is that the credentials they get will be accepted in Ontario. All this being equal, we are prepared to move.

The House adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
31	1595	1	24	
Northern development councils, questions 193 and 195, Mr. Pierce, Hon. Mr. Peterson .				1592
31	1595	1	27	
Supplementary interim answer, questions 23 and 69				1593

CONTENTS

Members' statements

Air-India disaster, Mr. Shymko	1599
Ontario Lottery Corp., Mr. Laughren	1599
Greater Kingston Cheese Festival, Mr. South	1599
Highway construction, Mr. Stevenson	1600
Housing stock, Mr. Reville	1600
Centres of excellence, Mr. Epp	1600
Acquired immune deficiency syndrome, Mr. Brandt	1600

Statements by the ministry

Computers in education, Hon. Mr. Conway	1601
Pension benefits, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1602

Responses

Computers in education, Ms. Fish	1603
Pension benefits, Mr. Ashe, Mr. McClellan	1603
Computers in education, Mr. Allen	1604

Oral questions

Auto pact, Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1605
Education funding, Ms. Fish, Hon. Mr. Conway	1606
Auto pact, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1607
Constitutional accord, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1609
Auto pact, Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1610
Federal tax reform proposals, Mr. Laughren, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1611
Human rights, Hon. Mr. Scott, Mr. O'Connor	1611
Trade with United States, Mr. Gillies, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1612
Heritage languages, Mr. Grande, Hon. Mr. Conway	1612
Ontario student assistance program, Mr. Eves, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1613
Education funding, Mr. Allen, Hon. Mr. Conway	1614
Wintario travel grants, Mr. Rowe, Hon. Mr. Eakins	1615
Automobile insurance, Mr. Swart, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1616

Petitions

Therapeutic abortions, Mr. Pollock, tabled	1616
Consolidation of schools, Mr. Hennessy, tabled	1616
Naturopathy, Mr. Sheppard, tabled	1616
Education funding, Mr. Allen, tabled	1616

Report by committee

Standing committee on resources development, Mr. Laughren, agreed to	1617
---	------

First readings

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 93, Mr. Shymko, agreed to	1617
Municipal Corporations Quieting Orders Amendment Act, Bill 94, Hon. Mr. Grandmaître, agreed to	1617
Municipal Private Acts Repeal Act, Bill 95, Hon. Mr. Grandmaître, agreed to	1617

Committee of the whole House

Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act, Bill 79, Hon. Mr. Wrye, Mr. Martel,
Mr. Gordon, Mr. Gillies, Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Sterling, Mr. Dean, reported 1617

Adjournment debate

Speech pathologists, Mr. Foulds, Hon. Mr. Sweeney 1639

Other business

Commission on Election Finances, Mr. Speaker 1599

Record of debates, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Harris 1601

Notice of dissatisfaction, Mr. Speaker 1617

Adjournment 1641

Errata 1641

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
 Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education and acting Minister of Government Services (Renfrew North L)
 Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
 Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
 Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
 Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
 Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
 Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
 Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
 Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
 Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Minister of Financial Institutions (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
 Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
 McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
 Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House and Acting Speaker (Carleton East L)
 Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)
 O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)
 Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines (London Centre L)
 Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
 Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)
 Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)
 Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)
 Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)
 Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
 Smith, D. W. (Lambton L)
 Smith, E. J. (London South L)
 Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development (York North L)
 South, L. (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Stephenson, B. M. (York Mills PC)
 Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)
 Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
 Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
 Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
 Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)



No. 33

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Third Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, June 24, 1987



Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers

Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, June 24, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

LA FÊTE DE LA SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE

L'hon. M. Grandmaître: J'aimerais vous demander le consentement unanime de l'assemblée législative afin que je puisse prononcer quelques mots en cette fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste. D'accord?

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for one speaker from each party? More than one speaker?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: Two from the opposition and two from the New Democratic Party. I will ask the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to speak first.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed? Agreed.

L'hon. M. Peterson: Permettez-moi de souligner le caractère un peu spécial de cette Saint Jean-Baptiste. L'an dernier à cette date, je formulais le désir d'un rapprochement avec le Canada français qui mettrait fin à l'isolement du Québec.

Je constate avec plaisir que l'année constitutionnelle a été productive. Je sais qu'il reste encore beaucoup à faire mais l'enjeu est important et il faut faire en sorte que tout le monde soit satisfait et fier de l'entente à laquelle nous travaillons.

Cette Saint Jean-Baptiste est la fête de tous les Canadiens français de partout au pays, mais aussi un peu de tous ceux et celles qui veulent se rapprocher d'eux.

M. Guindon: Il me fait plaisir en ce 24 juin, fête de la Saint-Jean, et fête des Canadiens français de saluer de façon toute spéciale les Franco-ontariens et les Franco-ontariennes qui, grâce à leur fierté et à leur tenacité, ont su demeurer un peuple possédant une langue et une culture bien à lui.

La survie de la langue et de la culture française en Ontario n'a rien de miraculeux. C'est en effet grâce aux vaillants efforts d'hommes et de femmes convaincus qu'on entend encore le français parlé et chanté dans tous les coins de l'Ontario, même si c'est à divers degrés.

Comme le disait le grand Louis Hémon dans le célèbre roman de Maria Chapdelaine, nous

sommes venus et nous sommes restés—Nous sommes restés et nous resterons car la fierté n'a pas d'âge.

Je profite de cette journée pour rendre hommage à ceux qui ont combattu afin que le français garde sa place dans notre province. Je pense aux héros et héroïnes qui ont leurs noms dans l'histoire officielle, mais aussi à tous ceux et toutes celles qui ont réussi à garder le français dans leurs villages et dans leurs familles.

Ce sont ceux et celles qui ont travaillé pour nos écoles et nos organismes de toutes sorte afin qu'il y ait toujours du français quelque part. Il fut un temps où c'était très mal vu que de milier le français pour cette province.

Fort heureusement, cette époque est révolue et le français grâce à la Loi 8 a maintenant, du moins aura bientôt, sa place dans nos services gouvernementaux et para-gouvernementaux.

J'en suis très fier en tant que Canadien français et j'espère que cette loi sera plus que de belles paroles. J'espère très sincèrement que le gouvernement verra à une mise en oeuvre complète de cette loi dans les délais prévus et avant si possible.

Pendant trop longtemps les Canadiens français, comme tous les parlant français, ont été relégués au rang de citoyens de second ordre. Il est temps que les choses changent et ceci de façon évidente et permanente.

En ce 24 juin laissez-moi vous dire que je veillerai personnellement à ce que la Loi 8 soit appliquée avec toute la rigueur et toute l'étendue qu'elle comporte.

Novembre 1989 n'est pas très loin et d'ici là je veillerai, soyez en assurés.

Encore une fois, bonne fête de la Saint-Jean.

M. Pouliot: Permettez-moi de rappeler à tous les distingués membres de cette Chambre, comme l'ont fait nos prédécesseurs le premier ministre (M. Peterson) et aussi le député de Cornwall (M. Guindon) et plusieurs autres qui suivront, qu'aujourd'hui, en effet, est le jour de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

Pour nous Canadiens d'origine française, c'est notre fête nationale. Tous les Canadiens d'origine française célèbrent ce jour depuis fort longtemps avec le coeur, avec l'esprit. Depuis plus de 400 ans, depuis Cartier jusqu'à Cham-

plain en passant par Maisonneuve, Papineau et Bourassa, Laurier et enfin tant d'autres. Nos ancêtres ont su inculquer chez nous la fierté d'origine française.

Si nous avons eu, parce qu'il faut aussi, même en jour de fierté et de célébration le mentionner, quelques difficultés de passage, des difficultés à se faire accepter et à vivre comme les autres, nous sentons aujourd'hui, en l'an 1987, nous sentons individuellement et collectivement comme communauté qu'enfin, dans les années prochaines, dans les années qui suivront, la chance sera donnée aux francophones de vivre comme les autres. Sauf, qu'on pourra enfin le faire en français.

J'aimerais profiter de cette opportunité pour féliciter le gouvernement. Ce n'est pas souvent que nous, l'opposition, avons la chance de le dire. La loi cadre est un projet de loi qui est devenu, la loi cadre, la loi 8 permet aux francophones d'avoir accès à des services dans leur langue. Ce n'est qu'un début, mais ce début nous donne la chance de regarder le futur avec confiance.

Au nom de tous mes collègues, en conclusion, j'aimerais remercier M. Serge Plouffe et nos collègues de l'Association canadienne française de l'Ontario, qui oeuvrent depuis 75 ans et aussi inviter les membres de cet illustre lieu à se joindre à notre parti, à se joindre à moi pour célébrer tous ensemble notre fête nationale, la Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

M. Grandmaitre: Je vais essayer de prendre quelques instants pour souligner de façon particulière cette journée de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste, fête des Canadiens français. Pour tous les francophones de l'Ontario et des autres provinces canadiennes, le 24 juin est une journée tout à fait spéciale. Plusieurs activités populaires sont organisées dans toutes les régions de l'Ontario pour célébrer cette grande fête, qui donne à tous l'occasion de marquer leur appartenance à la communauté francophone de notre province. Les célébrations qui se déroulent aujourd'hui servent aussi à mettre en lumière le dynamisme et la vitalité des francophones de l'Ontario.

Je désire profiter de cette occasion pour offrir mes meilleurs souhaits à tous les francophones de notre province qui célèbrent aujourd'hui la fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste. Il y a plusieurs siècles cette fête avait pour but de marquer le solstice d'été, mais depuis 1834, le 24 juin est devenu la fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste, le patron des Canadiens français. Cette année, la population francophone de l'Ontario a une raison spéciale de célébrer parce qu'il y a quelques mois l'Assem-

blée législative a adopté d'une façon unanime une loi qui reconnaît le droit des francophones d'être servis en français par le gouvernement de l'Ontario.

En terminant, j'aimerais souligner que cette année les francophones de notre province ont une raison de plus pour célébrer la Saint-Jean parce que l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario, qui a adopté la loi sur les services en français, reconnaît le droit de chacun à être servi en français par le gouvernement de l'Ontario. Merci bien, Monsieur le président.

1340

M. Shymko: Je voudrais ajouter quelques remarques personnelles au sein de ce qu'on a entendu de mes collègues à la fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste. Tout d'abord, il y a plusieurs anniversaires, c'est très historique en cette année-ci, du fait que nous voyons l'inclusion de la belle Province, de la province du Québec, au sein de notre Confédération du Canada, nous voyons ce moment historique où le Québec fera partie de notre constitution.

C'est aussi l'anniversaire aujourd'hui, je voudrais vous rappeler, mes honorables collègues, un moment historique où, il y a 490 ans, le Canada fut découvert par Jean Cabot ou Giovanni Caboto, et c'est aujourd'hui alors la découverte, l'épanouissement de cette oeuvre historique où nous voyons ce grand pays, c'est l'accomplissement de toutes les communautés mais c'est aujourd'hui que nous voulons féliciter et démontrer la contribution, la grande contribution du Canada français, des Franco-Ontariens au sein de notre province et de leur détermination à lutter pour leurs droits, leurs droits linguistiques, leurs droits politiques et constitutionnels, de maintenir ce riche patrimoine culturel et linguistique qui a enrichi notre pays et qui a fait du Canada un pays vraiment unique.

Alors nous félicitons tous les enseignants, les parents, les dirigeants de notre communauté franco-ontarienne pour les accomplissements que nous voyons aujourd'hui. En donnant respect à ces individus, à ces organisations collectives, nous voulons souligner encore une fois que l'oeuvre n'est pas totalement accomplie. En félicitant le gouvernement provincial pour l'épanouissement des services en français à nos citoyens franco-ontariens, nous voulons dire que nous sommes tous partenaires dans cette grande oeuvre, et qu'il y en a encore beaucoup à accomplir. Ajoutons que ce seront des objets de discussion dans plusieurs projets de loi et en nous félicitant, n'oublions pas que c'est la détermina-

tion des Franco-Ontariens qui est à la base de toutes ces réalisations.

M. Rae: C'est avec plaisir que je participe, même brièvement, à cette occasion de joie, de célébration. Nous participons à la célébration non seulement d'une fête nationale, la journée de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste. Nous célébrons aussi, naturellement, une fête nationale pour la communauté francophone dans la province et partout dans le pays.

Nous sommes reconnaissants du fait que notre pays, le Canada, est le pays qu'il est à cause de la réalité de la communauté francophone dans la province, dans le pays, nous sommes reconnaissants du fait que notre identité-même comme pays dépend de ce fait historique et sociologique de notre identité nationale et nous célébrons aujourd'hui aussi, naturellement, les contributions qu'a fait la communauté francophone à la vie nationale, à la vie fédérale, à la vie provinciale et à la vie politique de notre province.

Comme l'a dit mon collègue, le député de Nipigon (M. Pouliot), nous aussi nous prenons beaucoup de fierté dans le fait que cette année, ces deux années, nous avons fait un progrès important à reconnaître la contribution de la communauté francophone à la vie provinciale. Nous avons réussi à développer la législation du projet de loi 8 sur les droits francophones de la province, mais je dois dire, et je prendrai l'occasion aujourd'hui pour le dire encore une fois, que j'attends personnellement et de la part de mon parti, j'attends avec un peu plus d'impatience le jour où notre province sera une province où le français est reconnu officiellement dans notre constitution comme une langue officielle de la province, parce que nous voulons vraiment que ce soit le cas.

Mais, en tout cas, ce n'est pas une journée pour un débat politique, c'est une journée de célébration. Je suis heureux de voir mes amis de l'ACFO et mes collègues francophones ici pouvoir célébrer pour quelques moments cet évènement si heureux et si important dans la vie de notre pays.

M. Poirier: Aujourd'hui le 24 juin, la communauté franco-ontarienne et ses nombreux amis célèbrent leur grande fête annuelle, la Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

A titre de Franco-Ontarien, de député de la circonscription au plus grand pourcentage de Franco-Ontariens et Franco-Ontariennes, et à titre de président de la section ontarienne de l'Association internationale des parlementaires de langue française, j'ai l'honneur d'avoir l'occasion de saluer en ce grand jour toute la

communauté grandissante de francophiles sympathiques à la communauté franco-ontarienne.

Aujourd'hui, nous prenons le temps pour souligner l'apport à l'Ontario des gens d'expression française qui, du tout début, du temps de Samuel de Champlain et d'Etienne Brulé ont contribué à bâtir l'Ontario que nous connaissons aujourd'hui.

La dernière année à l'assemblée législative fut des plus heureuses pour les francophones de l'Ontario. La promulgation de la loi 8 garantissant aux francophones l'accès aux services en français du gouvernement provincial, l'installation officielle de la section de l'Ontario de l'Association internationale des parlementaires de langue française, la traduction simultanée en Chambre et en comité ainsi que la visite de nombreux dignitaires francophones d'ailleurs, dont nul autre que le président de la République française.

L'avenir s'annonce très prometteur pour la communauté franco-ontarienne. Nous savons que les députés de cette 33e assemblée législative ont joué un rôle primordial à faire avancer les dossiers clés à un rythme inconnu dans le passé. Je suis confiant que la communauté ontarienne pourra compter sur notre appui collectif de plus en plus certain et évident.

En terminant, je tiens à remercier tous mes collègues de cette 33e assemblée législative pour leur appui à la communauté francophone de l'Ontario. Les temps ont grandement changé, le vote à l'unanimité en faveur de la loi 8 faisant foi.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention that even though I have been an MPP for only two and a half years, I have noted a big change in the attitudes of the Ontario community. To my anglophone colleagues, Ontarians, I say, thank you for the support to the Franco-Ontarian community. It is nice to be part of Ontario, to live side by side in understanding and belief in the two official languages of Canada.

1350

M. Morin: Je suis particulièrement fier de souligner que le fait français en Ontario devient de plus en plus l'affaire d'un nombre grandissant de nos citoyens. En effet, c'est avec une vive joie que je constate que beaucoup de gens, surtout chez nos jeunes, sont devenus conversants dans leur langue française.

Il y a quelques semaines, j'ai eu l'occasion de rendre visite à un groupe d'élèves de la 3e année de l'école Henry Larson, qui est située dans ma circonscription. Des petits garçons et des petites filles de pas plus de 9 ans, issus de familles non francophones, dont plusieurs ne sont même pas

de foyers dont la langue maternelle est anglaise, conversaient en français avec moi. En quelques mois de cours d'immersion, ils étaient devenus bilingues et plusieurs d'entre eux, j'en suis certain, polyglottes.

Je dois féliciter tous ceux et celles, et je répète qu'ils sont nombreux, qui, comme mon confrère de High Park-Swansea, parlent l'anglais, le français et plusieurs autres langues. La connaissance des langues est une richesse sociologique et ethnologique. Parler la langue de son concitoyen, c'est mieux le comprendre et se familiariser avec sa culture. Il est important de souligner ceci à l'occasion de la fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

Je tiens aussi à souligner qu'il m'est très agréable de m'exprimer dans ma langue maternelle ici à l'Assemblée législative. J'apprécie davantage que je puisse être compris par tous mes collègues grâce aux services de traduction simultanée institués déjà depuis plusieurs mois. C'est un avantage important de la loi sur les services en français dont vient de parler mon collègue d'Ottawa-Est. Je voudrais aussi vous annoncer que non seulement c'est la fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste mais aussi du ministre des Affaires francophones, Bernard Grandmaître.

En terminant, il me fait grand plaisir de vous présenter, ainsi qu'à mon chef, l'honorable premier ministre, et les deux chefs des autres partis—je remarque que M. Grossman n'est pas ici—peut-être le représentant de Nipissing et de York South, l'insigne de boutonnière portant le drapeau franco-ontarien. Qu'il soit un souvenir de cette fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

STATUE OF GIOVANNI CABOTO

Mr. Shymko: As I mentioned earlier in French, today marks the 490th anniversary of the discovery of Canada by Giovanni Caboto or John Cabot. What better occasion than today to unanimously pass a resolution which is in Orders and Notices and says:

"That, in the opinion of this House, the government of Ontario should grant permission for the erection of a statue honouring the world-famous Italian explorer Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) at an appropriate site on the grounds of the main Legislative Building of the parliament of Ontario in recognition of his landing... as well as honouring and recognizing the Italian Canadian community's immeasurable contribution to the development, growth and prosperity of Ontario and of Canada, and that appropriate funding be provided by the government of

Ontario jointly with other levels of government to a community-based organization that may wish to initiate and carry out this project under the auspices of and/or with the co-operation of the National Congress of Italian Canadians as well as under the patronage of the Governor General of Canada, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Ontario and other prominent citizens."

I know they will be around for the official unveiling of such a statue on the 500th anniversary of this event, which will be celebrated on June 24, 1997.

I appeal to all honourable colleagues to look at that resolution and, maybe before adjourning for the summer, we may contemplate this challenge.

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

Mr. Warner: Mr. Speaker, if you are wondering about the T-shirt, it is from the Ontario Federation of Students, which is celebrating its 15th year of existence.

[Applause]

Mr. Warner: I thank members. The federation deserves a lot of credit.

This organization has represented students in this province extremely well. It represented students as it tackled the difficult challenge of confronting the former Tory government over a decade of devastating cuts to our post-secondary institutions.

It now, of course, faces the equally difficult task of tackling the new government over issues such as accessibility, where universities are rewarded financially for cutting back on enrolment, and of fighting this government over the issue of the governance of colleges, where this government stands in the way of the democratic spirit being expressed on campuses.

Of course, it fights equally hard, especially in northern Ontario, for college residences, something which both the old government and the new government apparently cannot understand—why students, especially in northern communities, need college residences.

I congratulate the Ontario Federation of Students for the excellent work it has done over 15 years and wish it well as it tackles an equally tough government. Of course, we will do everything we can to assist it in its quest for better education in this province.

NEW VENTURES PROGRAM

Mr. Ferraro: The new ventures program was launched by the government last September to

guarantee loans of up to \$15,000 for promising new businesses. As chairman of the committee of parliamentary assistants for small business, I recommended this initiative. I am very pleased to report to the House on its progress today.

Between September 9, 1986, and June 15, 1987, 2,385 loans were approved under the program, totalling \$31.6 million, which should amount to in excess of 8,000 new jobs over a year's time.

The loans are made by chartered banks, trust companies, credit unions and caisses populaires. Seven such institutions made these loans and two more have now joined the program. They provide excellent regional coverage for prospective entrepreneurs.

The program in fact has exceeded its service target for the northern and eastern regions. Together, entrepreneurs in these two regions received 29 per cent of the loans.

I am also happy to note that 24 per cent of those receiving loans were women. This figure is well above the proportion of women who start businesses that employ at least one person.

Given the importance of small business to job creation in this province, I think we can all be pleased with these results.

ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Eves: The Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara), in response to a question yesterday about the inadequacies of the Ontario student assistance program for single parents, stated that perhaps one should do a little bit more investigation with respect to some of the benefits that these single parents are or are not receiving.

There are a number of single parents whose educational future is threatened by the minister's new OSAP provisions, which have meant up to \$5,000 less this year in OSAP funding for some of them. One of those individuals, Lynn Daly, is in the gallery here today. She is receiving \$5,000 less this year than she would have been entitled to last year. She is not one of the grandfathered-in students.

Yesterday the minister said the OSAP provisions were not discriminatory. Perhaps the minister can advise the House why the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues is in support of these single mothers. Why is the Ontario Federation of Students in support of these single mothers? I would venture to say that the minister answered all these questions himself

yesterday when he said, "Perhaps I have got it wrong."

I suggest to the minister that he immediately address the wrongs he has done to single parents like Lynn Daly throughout Ontario, who have some initiative of their own and who are striving for an education so they will not have to be dependent on his government; so they can find better jobs for themselves and provide a future for themselves and their children.

1400

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORP.

Mr. Laughren: Once again I rise in my place to extend an invitation on behalf of the government to all entrepreneurs out there to buy Ontario lottery tickets and sell them in any jurisdiction in the world at whatever price they want to sell them. It matters not what laws are in those jurisdictions; Ontario is looking the other way and allowing those entrepreneurs here to sell those tickets anywhere else.

At the same time, on behalf of the government, I would like to extend an invitation to all other jurisdictions to flood the Ontario market with their lottery tickets because, surely to goodness, if we are allowing our entrepreneurs to sell our tickets in those jurisdictions, we cannot say a word about other jurisdictions that decide they want to flood the Ontario market with their lottery tickets. That is exactly what the government is doing.

On behalf of the government, I do not know why the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) is hiding his light under a bushel. This is something he should be out there broadcasting around the world on satellite: "Come on. Come one, come all to Ontario. Flog your lottery tickets here. Don't worry about the price. Don't worry about our local laws. Come here and do as you want because we believe in an open season on lottery tickets all around the world."

It does not seem to matter to the government that there are \$500 million in lottery profits at stake for Ontario so, once again, "Come one, come all to Ontario and flog your lottery tickets here."

SCHOOLS IN MEXICO CITY

Mr. Reycraft: I would like to rise today and report to my colleagues on the official opening on Monday of this week of two schools in Mexico City. Both schools were reconstructed by the Ontario government. I had the great pleasure of attending the opening ceremonies on behalf of

the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway).

Shortly after the news of the September 1985 earthquakes which caused massive destruction in Mexico City, our government moved to make available \$500,000 in financial aid to assist the victims of the earthquakes. Of this amount, \$250,000 was immediately made available to the Canadian Red Cross for emergency relief projects.

After consultations, the reconstruction of two primary schools in Mexico City was identified as the most suitable contribution for Ontario to make with the balance. I must say I was amazed to see for myself the excellent reconstruction of the two schools, which they were able to do for only \$250,000. We all know what a small drop in the bucket that would be for the reconstruction of a school here in Ontario.

The money our government provided will truly make a difference for the young people in those schools. I was very proud of Ontario's contribution as the schools were reopened on Monday. In recognition of Mexico's appreciation of our assistance in their time of need, one of the schools, Antonio Manuel Marquez Muro, was renamed Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Northumberland, with 30 seconds.

HASTINGS BLUE HERON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Mr. Sheppard: I would like to take this opportunity to extend an open invitation to all the members of the Legislature to come out and attend the Hastings Blue Heron Festival of the Arts, which will be taking place in Hastings on the weekend of July 24 to 26.

The Hastings Blue Heron Festival of the Arts combines a strong representation of Indian art forms intermingled with the traditional works of many artists, including those of Debbie Fitzgerald, the festival's founder.

Artists using a variety of art forms such as photography, weaving, pottery—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired.

BASEBALL GAME

Mr. Warner: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I understand that it is parliamentary practice for the individual caucuses to report baseball scores when they take on the press. I am informing you that last evening the New Democratic Party caucus gave the press gallery an opportunity to play the game of baseball. Our

caucus ran up a spectacular 12 runs, whereas the press gallery managed a measly 27.

The members should understand, in putting that score in perspective, that there were no points awarded for skill, only for luck; and there were no points awarded for style, otherwise we would have won. We have enjoyed the practice and we look forward to the real game next week.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the member for the point of information.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: As Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons and on behalf of my colleague the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mr. Van Horne), I am pleased to announce a matching capital grants program of \$15 million over the next three years to encourage private sector nonprofit organizations serving disabled persons and senior citizens to increase access to their facilities.

Just a year ago this month, this government proclaimed the Decade of Disabled Persons. The proclamation marked our province's formal commitment to the goals of full equality and participation of disabled persons in all aspects of economic and social life in this province.

As this Legislature is aware, the government is working on a number of fronts to promote the independence, integration and full participation of disabled individuals in community life. One is by improving physical access and thus creating a more complete barrier-free environment. Another is by enabling disabled persons to take a greater part in activities in their own neighbourhoods. We are very pleased with our new program because it addresses these two needs at once.

Private sector nonprofit organizations sponsor numerous activities and offer many services that have wide community appeal. In many cases, however, senior citizens and disabled persons have been unable to take part because of lack of physical access. Our program will therefore open up new opportunities for these two groups. The new program, together with other initiatives taken by this government over the past two years—such as the reform of the Ontario Building Code and the Human Rights Code—constitute, I believe, striking evidence of our determination to improve access significantly.

My announcement today flows from the throne speech commitment in April to provide special funds to improve access to community

facilities. The revised Human Rights Code provides that denial of access to services, goods and facilities constitutes discrimination, unless providing access creates undue hardship. New regulations are being drawn up to deal with this complex issue, and the disabled community will be asked for input before they are finalized.

Our new capital grants program for private sector nonprofit organizations serving the disabled and senior communities provides further community support. Grants will be available to organizations, such as service clubs, service agencies, consumer groups and senior citizens' centres, and to church-related facilities, such as church halls and meeting rooms, if they are open to the community at large.

Eligible capital renovations projects include access ramps, elevators, grab bars, brailled and other tactile features for visually impaired persons, alert systems for hearing-impaired persons and renovations for structural features, such as widening doorways and redesigning of washrooms.

The program will be administered jointly by the Office for Disabled Persons and the Office for Senior Citizens' Affairs. The \$15 million will be allocated evenly between them. We will provide matching funds to a maximum of \$50,000 per agency or organization. Payment will be 50 per cent upon approval and the remainder when the project is completed.

The fund will be in operation this fall. The disabled and senior citizens' communities will be represented on the selection committee. Its duty will be to recommend priorities and to ensure the equitable distribution of funds.

We will continue to address the issue of accessibility. In the future, we want to see improved access to health care, educational and cultural facilities and government buildings and institutions. While substantial progress has already been achieved, programs and approaches for further improvements in these areas are being developed.

1410

SAFETY IN SPORTS

Hon. Mr. Eakins: As I announced to this House in January, my ministry is undertaking a comprehensive long-term set of initiatives to promote safety in amateur sport and fitness. Today, I am pleased to bring the House up to date on the progress my ministry has achieved in the past few months.

We are dealing with a growing and complex set of problems. We cannot hope to implement

lasting solutions to these problems without the strongest of public support. That necessitates thorough consultation with the public and those groups that are most involved in amateur sport and fitness.

My ministry developed the long-term, comprehensive safety strategy which I outlined in January because our ability to deal with the problems across the entire spectrum of amateur sport and fitness activities was limited in the past.

In January, I focused on the issues of injury and violence in amateur hockey and my concern about safety in fitness activities. Since then, my ministry and the groups responsible for amateur hockey and for fitness have made considerable progress on these fronts.

I would like to report to the House that my ministry has initiated the requirement of a safety component as a condition of grants under my ministry's various sports, fitness and recreation funding programs.

Our program for the installation of safe goal nets with breakaway capabilities has also been initiated. Although the program has been under way only since February, a number of grants have already been approved. My ministry expects to receive many more applications for funding as we get closer to the next hockey season.

The response from consultations with the Hockey Development Centre for Ontario has been excellent. The hockey development centre has identified safety as its number one priority. Just as significant is the progress that is being made towards the creation of a single provincial sport organization for amateur hockey. This is recognized as an essential step towards improving safety in amateur hockey.

In addition, a number of working groups have been appointed to focus on various safety initiatives in amateur hockey. We want to reduce injuries in amateur hockey and we also want to improve the way an injury is dealt with if one does occur. That is why my ministry has also provided the Hockey Development Centre for Ontario with financial assistance to deliver and improve the trainers' certification program.

My ministry has also held preliminary consultations with organizations involved in fitness and the fitness industry. As a result of these consultations, the Ontario Association of Sport Sciences has agreed to undertake the development of safety standards in conjunction with the fitness industry.

As members can see, we have made progress on a number of fronts. This is a long-needed start in tackling the problems of sports safety.

Mr. Speaker, you will remember that I said I intended to introduce sports and fitness safety legislation during this session. However, a necessary element in the development of any such legislation is the final report of the Ontario Sport Medicine and Safety Advisory Board. This board has been examining sports safety issues for two years and it required an extension of its deadline in order to complete its study and recommendations.

I am now awaiting the final report of the sport medicine and safety advisory board before introducing the balance of the comprehensive sport safety strategy that I announced in January. I hope to have this report in hand within the next few weeks.

Once I have had the opportunity to review the report and its recommendations, it is my intention to engage in broad public consultation across the province.

I want improved safety, but I want it on a solid foundation. It is clear to me that strong public support is required for lasting safety improvements, and that is why my ministry will use the upcoming summer months to refine further options with the groups most involved. At the same time, a ministry advisory group will continue its work to develop sports safety legislation and the necessary research and data collection to support the broad safety strategy that will also continue to take place.

In the fall, I will then be in a better position to present the honourable members with legislation that I believe will ensure our young athletes and the public enjoy a sports and fitness environment free of the fear of violence or injury.

HOURS OF WORK

Hon. Mr. Wrye: In January of last year, I announced in this House the appointment of a Task Force on Hours of Work and Overtime. The appointment was the result of growing concern over what appeared to be excessive amounts of overtime being worked by some individuals while, at the same time, many others were without any work at all. Although many workers were happy with the extra income that their overtime earned, others wondered whether such overtime could not be translated into new jobs.

These questions raised other questions about the effects of excess overtime on health and safety, about employers' ability to compete in the marketplace and about the social consequences of long work hours. Ultimately, we had to ask ourselves whether the eight-hour day and the 48-hour work week maxima which were legislat-

ed under the 1944 Hours of Work and Vacation with Pay Act should not be reviewed and, if necessary, amended.

Consequently, the terms of reference of the task force were to study and make recommendations to me with respect to all the issues related to permissible hours of work and overtime under the Employment Standards Act. I asked about the need for overtime hours and whether there were practical alternatives, such as new job creation. I wanted to know about health, safety and absenteeism where long hours are worked, and about the effectiveness and efficiency of the existing legislation, what improvements or other approaches could be proposed, and what would be their cost and other implications for both employees and employers.

In carrying out its work, the task force was asked to consult with trade unions, employers, government ministries and other interested groups or individuals as required.

Today, it gives me great pleasure to set before this Legislature the report submitted to me by Dr. Arthur Donner, chairman of that task force. The report contains a thorough analysis of the issues and culminates in more than 20 recommendations. Let me share the highlights with the House.

First, the report states that there may be some small job creation potential in reducing hours of work and overtime, although this potential is severely limited.

Empirical evidence from the United States indicates that requiring employers to pay double time instead of time-and-one-half for overtime would reduce overtime by about 20 per cent. This in turn could lead to a maximum employment increase of only 1.25 per cent. The task force states that much of even that, however, is likely to be diluted by various factors.

The report also observes that numerous unintended barriers to the hiring of new workers are built into various fringe benefit arrangements.

Beyond all this, the report states that a reduction in the standard work week, after which overtime would be paid, could actually increase the use of overtime.

Among the report's recommendations are the following: the standard work week should be reduced from 44 hours to 40; overtime after 40 hours per week should be voluntary and paid at time-and-a-half; the Employment Standards Act should be amended to provide for compensation for overtime in the form of time off at the premium rate, instead of pay at the premium rate,

where both parties agree; the act should also be changed to provide universal entitlement to unpaid leave after 10 years of service with one employer and additional unpaid leave four years prior to retirement; three weeks' vacation after five years is also recommended.

The report also notes that, according to surveys, 25 per cent of Ontario workers would be willing to accept reduced work hours with proportionate pay reductions.

There are many other thought-provoking recommendations and findings in this phase 1 report and I want to assure all members that it will receive the most careful study and consideration from my ministry that it properly deserves.

In due course, the government will place before the House its response to these recommendations and the recommendations of phase 2, which deals with special treatment for such groups as domestics, construction workers, truckers and agricultural workers. I expect to receive phase 2 in the fall.

In the meantime, I want to take this opportunity to place on the record the government's appreciation of the thorough and painstaking effort of Dr. Donner and his task force colleagues, Ms. Judith Andrew, Sam Gindin, Fitz Allison and Ray Silenzi.

Three of the members of the task force are in the member's gallery and I ask that they stand to be recognized.

Although the report contains dissent on some points, it is, I am pleased to say, a predominantly consensus report.

I also want to thank all those employees and employers who contributed both individually and organizationally to the public hearings and through written briefs in response to the task force's invitations to make their views, experiences and ideas known.

For me, the experience has been enlightening and I feel confident that it will make a meaningful contribution to the working lives of the people of Ontario.

RESPONSES

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr. Grossman: I want to respond to the statement made by the alleged minister for the disabled. We have a minister for the disabled who is trusted to stand up and read a statement obviously prepared elsewhere, a minister who admits he does not know what the poverty line is in Ontario while he is supposed to be looking after the disabled persons' interests, and a minister who clearly was not able to participate at

all in the questions surrounding the robbing of the \$100 a month, which was sent for the disabled persons out of their own Canada pension plan contributions, by his government.

1420

Today he stands up and announces that a government with \$8 billion more to spend than it had when it came to office, a government which is spending almost \$300 million a year for more civil servants, is going to find—count it—\$5 million a year under the first announcement, the capital grants program, for the disabled. That is a disgrace: \$5 million to improve access; \$5 million when they have \$8 billion to spend and \$275 million to \$300 million for civil servants.

Might I also say to the minister that he is not announcing a grant from the government to the disabled. What he is announcing is that he has taken money from the disabled to build access opportunities for the disabled.

It is incredible that the government's capital grants program announced here is \$15 million, which is almost exactly the same amount that was taken by this government out of the CPP contributions and increases in pensions for the disabled, which was sent to this government by the federal government and ended up in Robert Nixon's Treasury. Of all the money sent by the federal government for the disabled persons' pensions, \$15 million was diverted between the federal government and the disabled persons into the provincial Treasury. Today the minister stands up and announces he is going to spend that \$15 million on access ramps.

At least the minister should have the dignity and honesty to stand up and tell the disabled what he has done with the money he took from them, because this is not largess of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) or the Liberal government of Ontario; this is just the minister redirecting money which the disabled had every right to get under their CPP contributions and he took it from them, without authority, without permission and without the slightest shred of justification.

He and the Minister of Community and Social Services should hang their heads in embarrassment, as they have taken the money from the disabled and have the nerve to stand up today and suggest they have done something new for them.

Finally, consistent with this government's policies, my colleague the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) approached five ministries on behalf of Christ Church in Clarkson, which wanted to put in access ramps a year

ago. It was tossed from ministry to ministry, each one saying they had no intention to do what the minister did today.

They went ahead and did it.

Mr. Stevenson: Plus Knox United in Sutton.

Mr. Grossman: My colleague here mentions Knox United in Sutton.

My question to the minister is: if he is more interested in the disabled and access than he is in taking political credit, will he ensure that those who proceeded without his help, because he and his colleagues said they were not going to help them, now get the funding they are offering? Will Christ Church and Knox United be able to share, even though those people turned their backs on them a year ago and they proceeded without them?

I suspect the answer is no, because the minister is not interested in access for the handicapped and disabled; he is interested in getting political credit for access for the handicapped. He should hang his head in shame.

HOURS OF WORK

Mr. Gordon: I would like to respond to the statement of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) with regard to the calls of the Task Force on Hours of Work and Overtime for access to hours-of-work records and so forth.

I would like to say to the Minister of Labour that while we recognize there is flexibility built into this act or the recommendations of the task force when it comes to employers being able to find sufficient overtime, at the same time we also have to note that it would mean that with the 250-hour limit, and a permit after, it would mean an employee would work as much as six weeks during 52 weeks; or if we took the basis that the average employee works 48 weeks, if he worked five hours a week, that adds up to 240 hours.

I think we have to have concerns about those recommendations.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In response to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Ruprecht), I must say it is disappointing to see he is putting in \$5 million a year, something this past Tory government managed to do itself a number of years ago before that program was dropped. But he cannot talk about access unless he deals with the questions of right to access and right to reasonable accommodation. Eighteen months ago, in committee, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) promised there would be regulations to enforce reasonable

accommodation. He in fact said—there was hollow laughter—which would follow the Tories' inaction of 42 years, and his regulations would make guidelines possible.

They are still not in place 18 months later. Why? Because the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) and the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) have basically sandbagged those regulations and have stopped that reasonable accommodation from taking place.

It is ridiculous to talk about access if one is not going to deal with the undue hardship that might be caused to various groups and organizations that wish to provide access. Again, the Attorney General said he would provide that kind of fund. It is not available today, and the minister has not announced it. This again is another sham Toryism.

HOURS OF WORK

Mr. Mackenzie: I wish to respond to the report of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) on the working times task force. I would like to point out most of the recommendations in the task force are those that underline the arguments we on this side of the House have been making for some time. It says that noncompliance with the regulation of overtime hours is prominent in Ontario; that there is a significant amount of overtime in manufacturing which is job intensive and that it is done by the workers on a regular basis in this particular industry. The first two recommendations are a 40-hour work week with overtime after 40 and with voluntary overtime after 40.

I would suggest to the minister it is a bill I myself have moved since 1977 every year consecutively in this House asking for exactly that. It also calls for a third week's vacation after five years of service, which is another bill I have moved consecutively in this House. I would suggest to the minister there is absolutely no justification for the Liberal government's not moving immediately to institute the recommendations made to this House by the working times task force.

Mr. Rae: I must confess that, having read Professor Donner's report and the report of the task force and having seen the minister's statement, I am wondering whether we are talking about the same report. Talk about turning a silk purse into a sow's ear; this minister has a capacity to turn upside down a document which says, for example, that "significantly reducing working time is no longer a pie-in-the-sky issue;

the surveys of worker attitudes indicate there is strong support for this concept."

The report indicates the permit system in place in the province today is in a total shambles. It produces the astonishing piece of information that for every hour of overtime worked under a special permit, 24 hours of overtime are not covered by special permits. That fact, I would have thought, speaks so eloquently of the problem and the situation, a fact which the minister chose not to even mention in his special statement.

If I may say so, he has chosen to take a report which states very clearly that our labour legislation is in need of change and reform, instead of which he is simply defensive about the government's record and indicates that in the future perhaps something will be done, but he himself sees no agenda coming out of this document in terms of something that must be done in order to address the problems that are there.

These are not academic issues. There are 4,000 workers who today are out on strike at the de Havilland plant, precisely over the question of voluntary overtime. For a Minister of Labour to stand up in his place and dismiss as trivial the question of the relationship between overtime and working time and the creation of jobs—which is not what the report says at all; it is a misrepresentation of what the report says—and not to mention the impact this kind of change will have on working relationships and people's ability to keep the jobs they have is just another example of a minister who simply is not capable, not capable in any way, shape or form, of doing the job which, unfortunately for the people of Ontario, he now holds.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would remind the members that the next order of business will be oral questions.

1430

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: From time to time, ministerial statements have run overtime and this House has always, by unanimous consent, agreed to allow extra time. In this case, both the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and myself have run short of time for response. I wonder if we could have unanimous consent for two more minutes of responses.

Mr. Speaker: Is that a request from the member? Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: I did not hear unanimous consent.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

ORAL QUESTIONS

AUTO PACT

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Premier. As a result of the way the Premier has handled the information shared with him by the federal trade negotiator, there has arisen in this country a severe question over the Premier's credibility and, shall we say, trust on the freer trade issue.

I should like to read into the record the remarks made in this House by the Premier in response to a question asked by the member for York South (Mr. Rae) a few months ago. When asked to take a position on the freer trade initiative, he declined to do so, saying: "I have no idea what he"—the Prime Minister—"wants out of the deal and neither does the member. The Prime Minister has not put it on the table." He went on to say, "I do not know and he does not know the substance of the Mulroney trade initiative." Those were the Premier's words a couple of months ago in this House.

Yesterday, Canada's chief negotiator, Simon Reisman, said: "I want to tell you that they"—the government of Ontario—"know everything that is going on. Every last important issue was discussed with them in considerable detail." He went on to say: "I have personally, face to face with Mr. Peterson, given him briefings on everything that is going on, including everything going on in relation to the auto pact. There isn't anything going on that he doesn't know."

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Grossman: My question to the Premier is this: who is stating, shall we say, the truth? Simon Reisman, who says he shared all details with the Premier; or the Premier, who says he has no idea what is going on?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think it is important to know that the big decisions have not been made. For example, does the member know the federal government's position with respect to investment? I do not know. Does the member know? Do they know? Does Simon Reisman know? They do not know. I can tell the member this: he has not shared it with me. The reason he has not shared it with the member or me is that he does not know.

I say to my honourable friend, who is an absolute authority on lack of credibility, so I can

understand his coming at the question from that point of view, does he know what the American negotiators will do with respect to contingency protection?

Mr. Jackson: Is Reisman right or not?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member is wrong. The answer is that they have not made the big decisions yet. The member does not know the view on the auto pact. My view is very clear and has been throughout. What he wants to do is get his federal friends to stand up very clearly and enunciate a position on behalf of Ontario.

I think my honourable friend must understand that the federal government, if it has made up its mind—and I am not sure it has—has not yet shared what it wants on the big issues compared to what it is prepared to give away. We have been very clear about the interests of Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: By so misstating the degree of knowledge he has, the Premier has totally counted Ontario out of the trade negotiations and counted himself out as a serious partner when Ontario needs at least to be represented at that table by a Premier who can be trusted by the trade negotiators in Canada. The Premier has clearly counted himself out.

Having made himself a nonplayer, the Premier has gone to great pains to express his concern, at least here, about the auto sector in Ontario. I wonder if he could tell us why it is that he and his government have had hardly any meetings with the federal trade negotiators with regard to the auto sector.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Just a few minutes ago the member said I was having all these private meetings with Simon Reisman and he was informing me about all these matters. Now he says I have not had any meetings with him. When my honourable friend gets his story very clear, I will be happy to respond specifically to any question. Why does he not figure out what is going on over there?

Mr. Grossman: I will tell the Premier one thing. When I say that Simon Reisman has not briefed leaders of the opposition, I tell the truth. When the Premier says that Simon Reisman has not briefed the Premiers and that he does not have the details, with respect—and I do not want to get named by the Speaker—that is not factually accurate.

The Premier's responsibility is to stand up and share with us his view and share with the federal government his view, given the fact, to quote

Simon Reisman, that he has been fully briefed on all issues relating to the freer trade negotiations. That is either factually true, Simon Reisman's statement, or it is not, and I invite the Premier for once to give a direct answer.

My final supplementary is this. The Premier has expressed his concern—

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: The Attorney General's insecurity is showing again. He should be careful.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Final supplementary.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier has very often expressed his concerns about the auto sector. I wonder how he can explain the fact that he and his ministry have had only two meetings this entire year with the federal trade negotiators with regard to the auto sector, and he has written only one letter, that last week—which of course he leaked; that was the point of the letter—to the federal government. That is the entire degree to which the Premier has been fighting for Ontario's auto interests during the freer trade discussions: two meetings and one letter. That is the degree to which he has been fighting for us this year. Can he explain why his interface with the feds on auto has been so negligible?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: At meetings of first ministers the auto issue has been raised, and my views are very clear. There were also meetings on February 17, 1986, September 25, 1986, and November 13, 1986, and a communication on May 25, 1987. This may come as news to my friend, but this has been going on for quite some period of time, although he may just have gathered that fact.

We have been very specific on Ontario's views, put forward by way of missives and letters to the ministers involved, as well as to the trade negotiator. They have a very clear view of where we stand on the issues. The member may not, but I can assure him that they do.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier's answer to the Orders and Notices question indicates two meetings this year. That was all he did on autos.

1440

NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Grossman: My question is to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines on the matter of health, and health care in northern Ontario specifically, which we will get to in a moment.

Just recently, the minister and his colleagues were notified by McKellar General Hospital in Thunder Bay—a hospital I know he will know well, a hospital which services all of the northwestern part of the province—that due to funding problems, that is it does not have enough money, it is going to limit the occupancy level to 85 per cent, it is going to give priority to people from Thunder Bay only and begin to exclude people from outside Thunder Bay, and it will have to put a freeze on the hiring of new physicians.

Given the \$8 billion he has had since he came to office, given all the excess revenue he has had, how can he, as Minister for Northern Development and Mines, explain the fact that one of his key hospitals in the north is about to cut back services because of his underfunding?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I refer that to the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It has been referred to the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman has raised a question about a concern, I understand, with respect to budgeting. It is not unusual for people at this early stage in the fiscal year to project that certain deficit positions may be attained. We in the Ministry of Health take these projections very seriously, particularly in a situation where we made some substantial additions to funding at the end of the last fiscal year. We are very much concerned about the problems which have been raised.

I also must say that just yesterday I received a note which was conveyed to me by the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy), who also raised this as an issue for us to study. We are looking at the communications from McKellar and also from the honourable member and studying what may or may not be necessary in terms of action to take.

Mr. Grossman: That is complacency in the face of the closure of hospital beds if I ever heard it.

I want to read to the minister—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary question.

Mr. Grossman: We have had conclusive proof that there is indeed no Minister of Northern Development and Mines representing the interests of northern Ontario, because the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Premier (Mr. Peterson), would not even stand up and answer this issue, which results from a letter

written to him, and received by him, from the president of the board of governors of McKellar General Hospital.

This letter, dated June 19 and addressed to the Premier, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, says, "It is unfortunate that the amount of funds we receive from government does not cover the cost of the services provided, and we must now take action to reduce costs."

That does not say the hospital is going to wait until later in the fiscal year. It does not say it is waiting upon the study of his ministry. It does not say it respects the fact that he takes this seriously. The minister's best wishes are worth nothing when it comes to providing services, the money it needs to keep its beds open.

Mr. Speaker: Your question?

Mr. Grossman: My question directly to the minister is whether he is prepared to stand up this afternoon and say to McKellar hospital that he will provide all the funds necessary to eliminate its deficit and allow it keep all the beds open at all times? Is he prepared to give that commitment today, or is he going to wash his hands?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is not for me to make a commitment like that when we do not understand exactly what analysis of the hospital's projected budget conditions indicate. It seems to me that the honourable gentleman, in terms of requiring fiscal responsibility from this government, which has been shown to be the case by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and others, would ask that we analyse the forecast, the plans that have been submitted to us. In fact, we are doing that and it must be done in a very serious and very thorough fashion indeed.

Mr. Pierce: My leader directed the first question to the Premier and, of course, it was referred to the Minister of Health. Let me tell members that in the two years of Liberal government we have seen a steady deterioration of medical services in northern Ontario.

In the local papers in Fort Frances, we read of the intended closure of the intensive care unit. We now read where Thunder Bay's McKellar General, which is a referral hospital for northern Ontario, has advised the Ministry of Health—and I quote from the report of the board of directors—"that the following measures will be taken to reduce expenditures if increased funding is not forthcoming: limiting the occupancy level of the hospital to 85 per cent; new physicians, including specialists, will not be appointed to the medical staff; a freeze will be placed on all hiring; and that the priority will be given to

Thunder Bay admissions over those in the outlying areas."

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Pierce: I ask the Minister of Health when we are going to see some action in medical services in northwestern Ontario for the people in the northwestern region.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I thank the honourable gentleman for his question. I must say there have been very few two years consecutive like the last two where an expansion of health care services has been so dramatic as what we have provided for the people in northern Ontario.

We have provided for the people of Thunder Bay extra abilities to receive services for cancer treatment and other services in that area. We have expanded the opportunities for diabetic counselling in northwestern Ontario. We have provided services for drug addiction programs. We have done a whole series of things, not the least of which is to provide northern travel grants for people who require to be referred into areas like Thunder Bay from more remote districts.

An analysis by any reasonable and fairminded person would show that the premise for the honourable member's question is absolutely out of line. The whole point of this is that we have provided for the institutional sector of our province more funding than it has seen in the past and we have provided it with a very secure base upon which to provide services for the people of Ontario.

HOURS OF WORK

Mr. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Labour. The minister has had this report on overtime since May. He has been minister for two years. I think we are entitled to know where he stands on some of the fundamental questions in the recommendations.

Can the minister tell us, yes or no, is he in favour of a 40-hour basic work week in the province; and, yes or no, does he think overtime over and above that 40 hours should be mandatory or voluntary? What does he think? Should it be voluntary or not? Can he answer those questions?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The draft of the report was delivered to me in mid-May, and I have made every effort to make sure the report could be tabled in this House before it adjourned so that members could see it and comment on it, as my friend has done. That is, as the honourable member knows, the proper way of doing things. We have made no effort to delay. In fact, everything was done to make sure this report

would be tabled in this House so that we could get on with this matter.

I will say to the honourable member what I said earlier when I was seated with Dr. Donner and the other members of the task force at the press conference. I am impressed in a very positive way by the fact that this report is a coherent, all-inclusive report which I think produces a general series of positive recommendations in terms of where we should be going in regard to hours of work and overtime.

I am most impressed of all with the fact that the task force—made up of Dr. Donner as chairman, with two members of the business community, one from a larger business and another from the small business sector, and two members from labour, one at the national level and one at the local level—has none the less come forward with a consensus report.

Mr. Rae: I think we are entitled to an answer, I think people who are now working overtime but do not want to are entitled to an answer and I think workers who are out on strike asking for voluntary overtime are also entitled to an answer. In fact, the minister's answer could help put 4,000 back to work today. He does not apparently understand any of those things.

The minister has had this report for a long time. He has been minister for two years. There are four provinces that have the 40-hour week basically, and many states have the same thing. There is no call for this kind of delay. The minister could end a lot of uncertainty out there if he indicated just where he wants to go as the Minister of Labour.

I repeat my question to the minister. Is he in favour, yes or no, of a basic 40-hour week? Is he in favour, yes or no, of the principle that hours worked over and above that 40 hours should be worked voluntarily and not forced on people, not required of people, not dictated to people, but done voluntarily because that is what they choose to do? Why does the minister not stand up for working people for once?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I think the honourable member will know that when this matter moves forward, the views of the minister will be the views of the cabinet. I would say and I would repeat that I view the report in its totality in a very positive way. Very clearly, it was my expectation and I am not surprised to see that this report has proposed a reduction in the standard work week, and I certainly respond in a positive way to those proposals.

I think this task force has produced some very useful knowledge. It has also produced some

very creative solutions, such as unpaid leave after 10 years, such as a four-year runup of unpaid leave before retirement and a number of other solutions, including the area of time off in lieu of overtime. The member will note that this is in conformity with what we have just done in terms of domestics.

1450

Mr. Mackenzie: Given the fact that this push for 40 hours has been on for years now in Ontario, given the fact that the recommendation of the task force is unanimous—both the labour and the management people as well as the chairman—that it be 40 hours, that it be voluntary and time and a half after the 40 hours, and given the fact that five Canadian provinces and the United States have this kind of legislation now, what justification can the Minister of Labour give this House for not moving in this particular area? What is the justification?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: No one indicated we were not going to move except the honourable member. We intend to review in a comprehensive way at our level. Meanwhile, under tight time lines, we intend to ask business and labour to respond, to have consultation and then to move the matter forward legislatively.

This is a view of a task force which represents both business and labour. I appreciate what my honourable friend is saying, but Mr. Gindin and Mr. Silenzi, for example, perhaps do not represent the views of the Ontario Federation of Labour. Unlike the members opposite, I would like to hear the views of Mr. Wilson and of the labour federation. Unlike them, I would like to hear the views of the Canadian manufacturers, but I want them to get on with it so that we can move this matter forward legislatively.

Mr. Speaker: New question? The member for York South.

Mr. Rae: Let the record show that the Ontario Federation of Labour's views are well known. They were presented to the task force.

Mr. Speaker: The question? Which minister?

Mr. Rae: Let the record show that we have a Liberal Minister of Labour who is not prepared to stand up and fight for the 40-hour week in Ontario. That is what the record shows.

Mr. Speaker: Order. You have a second question to which minister?

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Rae: The same minister. It is about the question of asbestosis, and it relates particularly to workers in his constituency and to his own

community of Windsor. The minister will know that there are some 25 workers at the Bendix plant, which is now closed, who have submitted claims to the Workers' Compensation Board, only two of which claims have been approved by the Workers' Compensation Board, both for a very rare form of cancer known as mesothelioma.

The minister will also know that those other cases have been rejected by the board, even though a recent study found that employees of the Bendix automotive corporation had 11 times the predicted number of deaths from laryngeal cancer, for example, and all other forms of cancer showed an excess among those workers who had worked at the Bendix plant who had died.

I wonder if the minister can explain why these workers and their families still are without compensation; why so many of them and so many of their families are having to fight and fight again for something that ought to be theirs as a matter of right.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I think the honourable member knows—if not, I can inform him—that the Workers' Compensation Board has asked the Industrial Disease Standards Panel to report on what standards of exposure and what time periods of exposure ought to be accepted for compensable purposes. The figure right now, I understand, is 10 years. I hope the IDSP will produce its comments on this issue very soon.

In the meantime, I have been working with Mrs. Dunn. Members of the worker advisers have been involved. We are attempting to pull together all those cases the honourable member raises and any others that might have come forward, so that once any new standards are set we can get on with providing compensation where that is appropriate.

Mr. Rae: There is something awfully fishy here, because the minister knows perfectly well that there is no guarantee in terms of when a new standard is going to come down. He will know that asbestosis is one of the longest-standing industrial diseases in this province and that problems with asbestos have been recognized by officials in the public health field across the world. There is no reason for this kind of delay for people who have died of cancer in excess of 11 times any reasonably predicted amount. There is no excuse for this kind of delay. There is absolutely none.

Can the minister explain to me why it has taken this long for this government to even send the matter to the Industrial Disease Standards Panel

when there is no guarantee how long that panel is going to take to come up with a standard, nor do we have any guarantee that standard is going to be any better than the one invented for gold miners?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: No, we do not have any guarantee, but we do have some guarantee that it has been taken out of the political arena of this Legislature and given to a panel to move forward on a scientific basis. I can say to the honourable gentleman that we have asked the Industrial Disease Standards Panel to expedite this matter. The panel took some time to put in place and it has been working on other matters as well. We have asked them to expedite this matter, and I hope they will produce a new standard that will be more appropriate to the contemporary reality of our knowledge in terms of asbestosis.

Mr. Rae: Wayne Brown is a young, 35-year-old asbestos worker. He is not working for Bendix but he is a member of the Asbestos Construction Workers' Union. He has been working with asbestos since he was 16. The minister has been involved in this case. He asked that it be fast-tracked. That is precisely what the Workers' Compensation Board did: it fast-tracked his claim and then turned him down. Not only his own doctor but also other doctors, including the doctors from the Ministry of Labour's chest clinic, his family doctor and a specialist, have all said he was suffering from the early symptoms of asbestosis and showed signs of excessive fibres in his lungs.

Can the minister explain why this worker is today without a pension, without any recognition of his claim from the Workers' Compensation Board, without any program to get him out of an asbestos environment and why today, as I speak and as I raise this question, this worker is still being exposed to asbestos? Can the minister explain why this is happening in 1987 in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The honourable member is correct that we asked that this matter be dealt with as quickly and expeditiously as possible. I did so not only as minister but also as a member of this assembly. I can say to the honourable member that like all members of this assembly, there are decisions taken by independent organizations that sometimes I do not agree with. There is an appeal procedure from the decision and that individual, Mr. Brown, can use that appeal.

Mr. Rae: You are a disgrace as a minister.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: There goes my friend again. In his world, every time he disagrees with a decision he would have the Minister of Labour or

whatever minister of the crown simply dictate to independent organizations what the law will be and what the rules are. There are rules and there are appeals from those rules, and the matter is going forward in an appropriate way, not in the inappropriate way my friend constantly suggests ought to go on.

Mr. Harris: We have a question for the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), who I was told was going to be here for question period. It is three o'clock. I do not know whether we have any information on whether he is coming or not coming. We also have a question for the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes). We were told he was going to be here. Perhaps he snuck out the back for a smoke.

Mr. Speaker: Are you placing a question?

Mr. Harris: No, Mr. Speaker. I am asking whether you have any information on these ministers who said they were going to be in the House.

1500

ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. I would like to know why the minister seems to believe it is okay to discriminate against single parents in the granting of Ontario student assistance, when the Ontario Human Rights Code says explicitly that there is a prohibition of discrimination in Ontario on the grounds of sex, marital status, family status and source of income. Why does he think it is okay to discriminate against single parents?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend's support of issues relating to single parents is well known, and I think probably she should do somewhat more investigation before she criticizes the initiatives we have taken in respect of single parents under the Ontario student assistance program.

What we have done, if one would call it discrimination, is increase by some 33 per cent the level of grant assistance available specifically for single parents, designed to cover the full educational costs of a single parent attending a post-secondary institution.

In addition, the initiative was taken in order to relieve single parents of a very heavy debt burden upon leaving the institution. If the member characterizes that as discrimination, I think she has a somewhat different view of discrimination than I do.

Ms. Gigantes: I wonder how the minister would feel if somebody else discriminated in a similar way against Italians, for example, to relieve them of a debt burden in this way. I think it would be helpful if the minister would get off his high horse and talk to some of the two thirds of previously registered students at Ryerson who, given the chance, are now choosing the old system. It was debt-burdening all right, but it gave them enough money to get by on.

Would he also take advantage today of the opportunity to meet with the person who was mentioned by the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves), Lynn Daly, who is here with her daughter Kate? She is a newly registered student at York, and she will tell him that, after rent, she has barely enough money to live on with her child and that, after assessment as a new student preparing to enter York, she will not be able to go, because she is being offered \$3,500 debt-free under his discriminatory system. She might have got something close to double that under the old system, and if she had a chance she would choose it. Will he talk to her?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The question is, would I talk to the constituent my friend is referring to? The answer of course is yes.

In addition, just by way of example, under the old system, a single parent with two children would have received total assistance of some \$14,200 in a one-year period. Under the new system, that parent having children in unsubsidized day care would receive, in a combination of family benefits allowance or general welfare assistance and grant assistance of close to \$8,000, some \$15,000 in assistance from the government, and leave after four years without any debt load.

I simply add that my friend should know and should acknowledge in this House—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Housing.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are many members who would like to ask questions.

Mr. Jackson: On May 19, the minister advised this House that, in his opinion, tenants would save \$20 million this year and possibly \$40 million next year as a result of Bill 51. To justify this outrageous claim, he produced a nine-month-old report. He is familiar with the

report. Unfortunately, the report does not bear out the minister's claim at all. It mentions a range of possibilities. Will he admit to this House today that one result, just as likely as his claim, is that tenants in Ontario will lose \$5 million this year since that figure is directly out of the same report produced by his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The honourable member was there when those figures were given to us by my staff. I can recall, I think it was in Ottawa, when we presented that report and it was discussed. I can also recall that the honourable member took part in that discussion. We still stand by that figure. A considerable amount will be saved by the tenants with our new Bill 51.

Mr. Jackson: Actually, it was in Kingston that we discussed the report and it was incredible that the minister was able to defend the figures on that occasion. How can he quote figures at all when he stood in this House on May 13, May 14, May 20, June 4—again and again in this House? He has a backlog of applications under his bill for which he has been unable to give this Legislature the exact number. He has been unable or unwilling to be forthcoming to this Legislature as to the total number of increases for post- and pre-1976 buildings.

Does the minister have the information today? If he does not, how can he go around quoting these numbers and statistics all over this province? When is he going to provide the clear information that is being asked for by tenants who are paying 30 and 40 per cent increases under his Bill 51? It is going to be a \$5-million increase, and he will not admit it.

Hon. Mr. Curling: There are no tenants who are paying 30 and 40 per cent increases. One minute the member is stating that there is a backlog and nothing is being dealt with. On the other hand, he is stating that people are paying 30 and 40 per cent. He very well knows that any notice that is given, whether it is 30 or 40 per cent, has to come before the administrative process and, if not, the tenant has the right to appeal that to the Rent Review Hearings Board. I cannot understand how the member can stand here and speak that way.

Mr. Jackson: There will be a \$5-million increase. That was your own ministry's figure.

Mr. Speaker: I did not ask the member for Burlington South for a further supplementary.

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH BRAIN INJURIES

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services

related to a constituent named Ross Delany, a 27-year-old brain-damaged young man who has been in the Dale Home in London for two years and who has a deadline of the end of this month to move out.

I have given the minister some documentation about this issue. Can he indicate which of the three options proposed for Mr. Delany to provide him with cognitive retraining, occupational training, behavioural management, psychological counselling and speech therapy he is prepared to fund? Is he prepared to fund the preferred option, the 24-hour attendant care for Mr. Delany, so he can live in his own apartment in Sault Ste. Marie, close to his family in Heyden?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member has brought this matter to my attention and he will realize that from a larger point of view the two options that have been made available to us are to change the program for this young man at Dale in London and leave him there or to assist him and his family to have him established in Sault Ste. Marie.

It is the second one we are working on at the present time. We do not think it is appropriate to change the program at Dale. We think it is more appropriate that he be in Sault Ste. Marie, where he can be close to his family, where he wants to be and where his family wants to be. My staff and the staff at Dale, who are being very co-operative, are working on that at the present time.

1510

Mr. Wildman: I am glad the minister gave me that response, but can he indicate how long this is likely to take? The deadline was originally the end of May for him to be moved out of the Dale Home and it has been extended to the end of June. There are only a few days left.

Mr. Delany himself has become most despondent because he knows Dale cannot do anything more for him. His family is most concerned about him. He needs therapy and he has the potential of developing into an individual who can look after himself to a higher standard than he is now.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Wildman: Can the minister tell us when the decision will be made and the funds made available so Mr. Delany can start on the road to leading a more productive life?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Given the fact that the honourable member had given me the information earlier, I have asked my staff to expedite this as quickly as possible. We have a clear indication

from Dale that it will meet his needs as best it can until an alternative is in place. Regardless of what timetables have been suggested—and of course, in order to get something moving, that is often done—he will certainly not be put into a situation that is not appropriate for him.

I would indicate to the honourable member the primary reason for the delay is that this young man has spurts of very serious behaviour management problems, and that is the one aspect of the problem. It is not the retraining; it is not the attendant care; it is how to deal with a fairly severe and fairly frequent behaviour management problem. Quite frankly, at this moment, as I say, the staff of Dale, the staff of my office in Sault Ste. Marie and his family all agree that until provision for that is made, it would be inappropriate to make the move. That is what is holding it up.

Mr. Speaker: New question. The member for York Centre.

Mr. Cousens: I am looking for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil).

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry, we are supposed to go by rotation. I missed the member for York East.

FUNDING FOR SPORTS

Ms. Hart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. The other day the member for Simcoe Centre (Mr. Rowe) raised an issue that concerns me as well. It had to do with the funding to women's softball. Can the minister—

Interjections.

Ms. Hart: Well, maybe there are others in this House who are not concerned about women's sport, but I certainly am.

Interjections.

Mr. Pope: Sleazes. Why don't you just give the answer?

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will just wait.

Ms. Hart: Can the minister tell me how the funding for women's softball works and whether indeed it has been reduced?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I am pleased to answer that question. It was raised by the member for Simcoe Centre. I notice he is not in the House today, but I am pleased to answer it just the same.

With regard to the funding to the Provincial Women's Softball Association and the charge that the funding has been reduced from some 50 per cent to 27 per cent, it should be noted that the ministry does not fund every single organization,

it funds sports governing bodies and they in turn fund their affiliates. In this case, Softball Ontario is funded by our ministry and it in turn is responsible for funding the Provincial Women's Softball Association. Our commitment to Softball Ontario has not decreased and in fact it has increased.

Ms. Hart: Can the minister provide the figures to support his statement about the funding for women's softball?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I would just like to point out that in 1986-87, Softball Ontario received a total grant of \$82,000. In 1987-88, the commitment is \$91,600. That is an increase of \$9,600.

Mr. Pope: You're wrong about the high schools and you're wrong about this. Why don't you stand up and say what's really going on. You make the established funding rules, you cut the grants in half. You forced them to cut the grants in half.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: It's been increased.

Mr. Pope: You force them to come—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: If you want to be the leader of the party, you want to brush up on your research.

Mr. Pope: Yeah, you tell that to the principals in the high schools in northern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for York Centre is waiting patiently to ask his question, if the members will allow that.

[Later]

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins), in response to a rather silly question from the member for York East (Ms. Hart), referred to the absence of the member for Simcoe Centre (Mr. Rowe). I think the minister would want to know that the member is attending his mother-in-law's funeral.

FIRE PREVENTION

Mr. Cousens: This is more of a skill-testing question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, and not one that has been set up by the other party.

Lives are being lost and property is being destroyed through fire in Ontario. I want to ask a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. What is he doing in research and development to protect home owners from the loss by fire of their properties in Ontario? What is being done by the minister and his government to

protect new home buyers through research and development to protect them from loss by fire?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: That is indeed a very difficult question and I thank the member for it. I do not know whether he is referring to the recent fires he had in his area where quite a few homes were lost. If it was a question relating to them, I can tell him that one of the reasons they were lost, I understand, was that the homes were built very close together. Also, the water was not turned on and ready for access by the hoses when the fires were discovered.

Mr. Cousens: Occasionally, we give marks to ministers for how they answer questions, zero to 10. That one ranks zero because it did not answer the question.

The minister should know that on a per capita basis, Canada has one of the highest rates, if not the highest rate, of fire deaths in the world. Ontario leads the country in fire mortality. In 1985 alone, 182 Ontarians died and 2,065 were seriously injured in fires that cost the province \$253 million. The US National Fire Prevention and Control Administration has made enormous strides by increased computer power and basic research into the physics and fluid dynamics of fire.

Mr. Speaker: Is the question coming?

Mr. Cousens: Why does Ontario not have the technological capacity to implement these measures? Can the minister afford not to pursue this technological research strategy since so many lives depend on it?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Knowing that it is a real concern for the member, I am very pleased to hear his views today and I will be pleased to sit down with him any time to work on answers he might have to help with this problem.

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH BRAIN INJURIES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Scarborough West would like to ask a question to the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) raised a question about brain-damaged adults, as others among my colleagues have done in the last little while. I would like to turn, if I might, to the question of the minister's grants program that is available to parents of often brain-damaged, severely disabled children to allow them to stay at home; the special needs

contracts essentially. I wonder whether the minister can tell us today what changes he is planning to make in that program regarding the—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The last election I called at Margaret Scrivener's house and I got two votes.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder if the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) could discontinue their conversation.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There are many parents around the province with severely disabled children who would normally be institutionalized. They are very courageously doing their best to keep them at home. There are severe limitations on that program at the moment: a \$10,000 maximum, a six-month renewal and some real difficulties with the eligibility criteria. We have been expecting an announcement from the minister for some time in terms of changes about that and I wonder whether he has anything to tell us today.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I have met with the advocacy associations representing those parents and have indicated to them the two or three directions in which we could move and use the resources that are available. One of them is to simply increase the amounts that are available to the existing families. The other one is to make more options available to more families.

For example, we have made a determination—and the parents have been advised of this—that those young people who reach the age of 18 and who would no longer be eligible for the program because it is designed as a children's program, will now be eligible. We will continue them beyond children's needs and into young adults' needs. Second, we will be providing it for adults, period, which we did not do before. Third, the member will remember that in the budget statement there was a reference to the fact that this program will be extended to the physically disabled as well as to the developmentally disabled.

1520

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I hope what I am hearing there is not that the minister is in fact going to trade off extension against raising the money for some of these families that are getting by in very desperate straits. Can the minister tell me, because I have not been able to discern it from either the budget, his estimates figures from last year or any announcements as yet, what new money he is allocating for this program for the under-18s in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: No, I am sorry, I do not have that figure at the tip of my fingers. I can tell the honourable member though that our experience to date indicates that although the maximum figure is \$10,000, by far the majority of families' needs are met below that figure, and the number of families whose needs are above that figure is smaller. That is one of the reasons that we were quite prepared to allocate resources in that direction.

One of the aspects of the program is that we have asked the agencies in the various communities who help us and assist us in actually delivering the service to indicate to us the number of families who do have a serious need.

As the member will appreciate, this is not needs-tested in the same way as most of our other programs. Consequently, we do really have to allocate the resources that are available, and they have been significantly increased. I wish I could remember the figure, but quite frankly, I just cannot. We have significantly increased the total allotment of dollars, and we want to put it where the greater need is, even though it is not needs tested. That is why we went to the advocacy groups themselves and said: "Would you help us decide? We want to put not just the same amount of money but more money in and we are trying to decide now where is the best place to put that extra money," and we are trying to respond to their recommendations.

SENTENCES FOR CHILD ABUSE

Mr. Mancini: A question for the Attorney General. It appears to be a very common occurrence as we read our daily papers to find many, many young children who have been abused by either their parents or by their guardians to the extent where they have actually died. It is also apparent that the sentences given to these people appear to be not in line with the offences that have occurred. I wonder if the Attorney General can tell me and the House whether or not his ministry keeps track of these types of offences, the punishment given out by the judges, the sentences, and whether or not the Attorney General is happy with what he has found.

Hon. Mr. Scott: In the ministry we recognize the fact that there are over the course of a year many hundreds of cases of child sexual abuse in the province in which convictions are entered and sentences fixed. I am glad to say that there are only a relatively small number of these in which there is a consensus that the sentences are inadequate. Those ones, of course, are the ones

that naturally tend to get press and public attention.

In the ministry we have a section that reviews these cases when they are brought to our attention either by the crown attorneys who prosecuted them or by others, to determine whether an appeal should be taken to the Court of Appeal and whether an appeal is likely to succeed.

I should tell the honourable member that his concern is mirrored by the concern of a lot of other people who are good enough to keep in fairly regular touch with us about the cases as they see them in the courts. Our crown attorneys and crown law staff find that a useful asset in determining whether cases should be reviewed and an appeal taken.

Mr. Mancini: I suggest to the Attorney General that he should compile these statistics and make them available to the general public on a yearly basis.

I bring to the attention of the Attorney General a specific case that appeared in this morning's Toronto Star, dated June 24, of course. It refers to an Ontario Supreme Court judgement. I would just like to quote what the judge said before he sentenced an aunt and uncle who were put in a situation where they were placed as guardians of a small, two-and-a-half-year-old child. The judge stated, referring to the aunt: "Her neglect of the child was gross and must be seriously condemned," the judge said. 'She let this child...suffer three days and then die.'"

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Mancini: I read in this article that the sentence for the aunt is two years less a day and for the uncle is approximately one year.

Mr. Brandt: The question is—

Mr. Mancini: Is the Attorney General happy with this particular—

Mr. Brandt: Well, I tried to help.

Mr. Mancini: I want to thank the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) for his help.

Mr. Brandt: You are wasting time and you know it. Get on with the question. You have been four minutes on this question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Question?

Mr. Mancini: Is the Attorney General happy with this type of sentence for such a gross crime?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I think the honourable member and I, and perhaps many other honourable members, share the view—perhaps universally shared—that child sex abuse is a critical and important question; and I know the member for Sarnia would want to be sure that we have an

adequate opportunity to deal with important matters of this type in the House.

I read the press reports that the honourable member referred to, and I have asked officials in my ministry to examine them from that point of view. I will be in touch with my honourable friend.

MINISTRY LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. Sheppard: I have a question for the Solicitor General. I would like to raise a matter which has generated a great deal of publicity in my riding. Did the Solicitor General know that his legal counsel, John Chalmers, was in Cobourg on June 11, 1987, for the purpose of providing legal counsel to his spouse? The media in my riding are asking if the Solicitor General approves of this action. Would the Solicitor General care to respond to these charges in the press?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: May I just apologize for being out of the House momentarily. I was attending on some constituents of a Conservative caucus member; that is why I was just outside.

I am aware there has been some concern expressed in the area of the honourable member's constituency with regard to the appearance of an official of the ministry on behalf of a relative. I have asked my officials to determine the exact facts of that particular case to see whether there is any action that needs to be taken.

Mr. Sheppard: Does the Solicitor General normally allow his legal counsel time away from his duties at Queen's Park so that, through intimidation, the counsellor may represent his spouse on an affair that is unrelated to the business of the Solicitor General's office?

I might also say—

Mr. Speaker: By way of question, I hope.

Mr. Sheppard: —that he said he was the best darn investigator the Solicitor General has got.

Can the Solicitor General prove that?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: That just shows the very positive attitude all members of my staff have about themselves and their own ability. It must stem from the fellow on top, I guess.

We have said that we will look at the facts of the matter. The particular individual in question has been away for several weeks on sick leave and is still recovering. That is why we are asking for the facts to be determined upon his return and also to see what action will be taken.

SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

Mr. Foulds: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. How could

the minister yesterday, in replying to my dissatisfaction with the government's initiatives on speech pathology, give us information that, if it did not mislead us, tried to lead us to believe there was an actual increase in the bursaries for speech pathology, when, in fact, the increase is only in bursaries having to do with psychology and social work; and his ministry, which applied for and received from Management Board three bursaries in speech pathology last year and three bursaries in speech pathology the year before, has applied for only three bursaries in speech pathology this year; and therefore there has been no increase from his ministry?

1530

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I stand to be corrected, but my recollection of our discussion last night was that I preceded that comment by the fact that my ministry is responsible for bursaries in three distinct areas which I described and that the expansion from 20 to 39 was in all three. In response to the specific point the member raised, I indicated that the total number of new bursaries just for speech pathology from my ministry was three and from the Ministry of Health was six, for a total of nine. If the member's recollection is different from that, I stand to be corrected.

Mr. Foulds: How then does the minister expect me to be satisfied with his government's answer when I have been calling for and have asked the Premier (Mr. Peterson) specifically to double the number of bursaries for speech pathology and the minister has admitted today that his ministry and the Ministry of Health will not be increasing and have not applied for an increase in the number of bursaries for speech pathology in underserved areas by even one?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member will also recall, as part of our late-night debate yesterday, the difficulty of placing Ontario students in Ontario universities. Given that particular situation, nine requests from a combination of the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) and myself seem quite reasonable.

He will also recall that we indicated, as part of that discussion, that there is an ongoing dialogue with the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) to expand the number of total spaces in Ontario, in which case we would be quite prepared to expand the number of bursaries in that field.

I went on to indicate that, if that were not possible I was then prepared to consider an expansion of the number of bursaries in universities outside, not just of Ontario but of Canada. That is still an ongoing process, but at this point

in time it does not seem to me to make sense to ask for more when there is simply no place for them to go. When there are more places for them to go I am quite prepared to expand the number of bursaries. I thought I made that clear as well.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

PETITIONS

TRANSIT SERVICES

Ms. Caplan: Last week I tabled on behalf of the residents of North York some 2,000 petitions. The essence of the message, which I will summarize, is: "We, the undersigned, respectfully request that the funding for the Sheppard subway line be approved without further delay."

I would like today to table an additional 5,000 petitions for the total of over 7,000 to date and I will be providing a further update next week.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I raised last week the question of whether the petitions for the Eglinton subway were in the prescribed manner and I did not have a ruling from the chair.

Mr. Speaker: I have just been advised it was not. However, I will check this one out as well.

THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition which reads: "To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do hereby petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to reject the recommendations of the Powell study. We understand that this study recommends the opening of government-run abortion clinics. We believe that there are already too many abortions done in this province and would like to see access restricted and not made easier."

It is signed by 109 people in the northern part of my riding.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I present this petition. I am sure the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) will be particularly interested.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned about the quality of care being at risk at the Port Colborne General Hospital due to the failure to implement recommendations concerning staff-

ing, in-service education and orientation programs. This is a serious situation and we urge your government's immediate intervention."

There are 1,455 signatures on the petition.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Callahan from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr5, An Act respecting Great Lakes Bible College;

Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the Township of Chapleau.

Your committee begs to report the following bills, as amended:

Bill Pr18, An Act respecting Port Stanley Terminal Rail Incorporated;

Bill Pr45, An Act respecting the City of Barrie;

Bill Pr51, An Act respecting the City of London.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Callahan: I would like to thank all the committee members for their great support.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Brandt from the standing committee on administration of justice presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill, as amended:

Bill 10, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BEES ACT

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved first reading of Bill 96, An act to revise the Bees Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Does the minister wish to say anything about the bees?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The purpose of these amendments is to protect the commercial beekeeping industry from being threatened by

imported honey bee diseases and pests. The major amendment to the Bees Act will strengthen the ministry's disease control programs by requiring Ontario's beekeepers to obtain a permit to import bees from outside the province.

Other amendments will enable inspectors to take samples of bees and equipment to identify honey bee tracheal mite, the chief threat, or any of the other diseases or pests. There will also be an approved appeal mechanism for beekeepers to challenge orders of inspectors. These are necessary changes to the Bees Act to ensure that the \$8-million commercial beekeeping community continues to be a viable sector in Ontario's agriculture and food industry.

1540

MUNICIPAL STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 97, An Act to amend the Municipal Act and certain other Acts related to Municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: This legislation addresses a number of long-standing minor problems brought to the attention of the government by various municipal associations and municipalities.

Dans son rapport final sur les assurances municipales le comité consultatif recommandait l'établissement d'une base législative plus solide pour permettre aux municipalités de s'assurer elles-même et de procéder à des échanges mutuelles, constituant ainsi une alternative valable au marché limité de l'assurance responsabilité-municipale.

This bill will also implement the enrichments of the tax payments to municipalities for certain public institutions, as announced by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) last fall. The annual fixed rate payment of \$50 in respect of each permanent student attending a community college or a university and in respect of the rated bed capacity of each public hospital or provincial mental health facility is being increased to \$75.

HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Elston moved first reading of Bill 98, An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have a couple of words about the proposed amendment. It reflects some concern that was raised with respect to the passage of private member's Bill 52 that stood in the name of the member for Rainy River (Mr.

Pierce). We are introducing this as an amendment to subsection 37a(2) which reaffirms in the statute the common law duty of a physician to inform his or her patient of the material risks of a procedure, in this case vaccinations.

CENTRE FOR EDUCATIVE GROWTH ACT

Mr. Morin moved first reading of Bill Pr12, An Act to revive the Centre for Educative Growth.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

Mrs. Grier moved first reading of Bill 99, An Act to protect and enhance the Quality of Drinking Water in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs. Grier: As the title indicates, this bill is intended to protect and enhance the drinking water quality in Ontario. It provides an opportunity for public involvement in the making of regulations to set maximum permissible levels of contaminants and other substances in drinking water. The regulations would apply to both public and private water systems.

CROWN WITNESS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. Runciman moved first reading of Bill 100, An Act to provide for the Safety and Welfare of Crown Witnesses in Certain Criminal Proceedings.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Runciman: This is a reintroduction of a bill that died in the Orders and Notices. The act allows the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) to offer protection, including relocation and a new identity, to crown witnesses whose lives or safety are jeopardized by their willingness to testify at certain criminal proceedings.

CITY OF HAMILTON ACT

Mr. Charlton moved first reading of Bill Pr67, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Charlton moved first reading of Bill 101, An Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Charlton: The bill is to give the Ontario Energy Board additional powers to regulate rates and to investigate matters such as capacity, price and source of supply.

MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Warner moved first reading of Bill 102, An Act to amend the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Warner: The purpose of this excellent bill is to provide a vote on both the board of governors and the college council for students and staff members. The representatives are to be democratically elected by their peers, with equal numbers of males and females from each group.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

PENSION BENEFITS ACT

Consideration of Bill 170, An Act to revise the Pension Benefits Act.

The Deputy Chairman: Any questions, comments or amendments to this bill, and if so, to which section?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Before we start, I would like to do two things. I would like to get consent that I can move down to the front and bring in my officials.

The Deputy Chairman: Do we have unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The other thing is that the government has indicated its amendments in a revised bill that we have distributed to all the opposition members, and as a convenience in dealing with clause-by-clause discussion, I would also like consent to use that as the document we will work from.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there unanimous consent for the use of the document?

Agreed to.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I believe you have a copy of the NDP amendments.

The Deputy Chairman: The first amendment that I have is to section 1. Is that correct?

Mr. McClellan: No, I have an amendment to the preamble.

1550

The Deputy Chairman: As you know, there is no preamble to the bill in the copy we have here. Beauchesne states, "Where the bill, as introduced, does not contain a preamble, it is not competent for the committee to introduce one." But I think I will rule in your favour and present it right from the beginning.

Mr. McClellan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the bill be amended by adding thereto the following preamble—

The Deputy Chairman: No, that is not what I said. I am sorry. I was misinterpreted. We will have to deal with it at the end. It is out of order.

Mr. McClellan: I cannot hear you.

The Deputy Chairman: It is out of order. Can you hear me now?

Mr. McClellan: You will have to give me an explanation as to why you are ruling—

The Deputy Chairman: Beauchesne says—

Mr. McClellan: The what says?

The Deputy Chairman: Beauchesne. "Where the bill, as introduced, does not contain a preamble, it is not competent for the committee to introduce one." The bill does not contain a preamble.

Mr. McClellan: If I cannot read my motion—I have never heard of us using Beauchesne in this way but I do not challenge your ruling—let me make a comment on the preamble. You cannot stop me from doing that.

The Deputy Chairman: There is no preamble.

Mr. McClellan: I can comment on the first section of the bill which reads, "Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, enacts as follows:"

The Deputy Chairman: Speak to the first section of the bill.

Mr. McClellan: I hope we are not going to be harassed throughout the afternoon because—

The Deputy Chairman: No, you will not.

Mr. McClellan: If we are—the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) nods his head—if that is the government's game we will have a long piece of business. I do not propose to do anything other than try to achieve the speedy passage of this bill.

I do not want to get into a procedural wrangle because we have a concern with precious time, but I think there should be a provision in the bill—I will revise this if I can get some indication from the minister what he thinks of the matter. I can always move an addition to the definitions section of the act, although it would make more sense to put it in the preamble.

At any rate, what I had wanted to do was to have a preamble included in this statute that stated clearly that the assets of a pension fund are recognized as deferred wages and are a trust held solely for the benefit of the members of the pension plan. That principle does not appear

clearly and unequivocally in this statute and this is a major defect of the statute. The statute should include a clear and strong statement and it is the responsibility, I guess of the government, to include it.

Since I am ruled by Beauchesne as being ineligible to introduce it into the bill, the government should have made a statement that pension fund assets are deferred wages held in trust for the benefit of the members of the pension plan, because everything we are debating flows from the principle, which I believe to be accepted by each of the three political parties, that pension fund assets are in fact deferred wages, are in fact held in trust and are in fact the property of the employees.

In all of our discussions, everything we are talking about in Bill 170 is a discussion of the management and distribution of the property of working people. It is not the property of employers. It is not the property of Conrad Black, for him to seize and take at his will. It is not the property of anybody other than the men and women who own the deferred wages that are invested on their behalf in pension plans. For the government to rewrite the Pension Benefits Act without stating clearly the principle that pension funds are deferred wages, that they are the property of working people and not of the employer, will continue to bedevil the pension field in years to come.

There is going to be litigation flowing out of this act no matter how carefully we write it. There are going to be disputes. There are going to be cases taken to court with respect to the ownership and distribution of pension benefits, credits and assets. There should be, clearly and unequivocally, a statement in the legislation that the assets of pension funds belong to somebody. They belong to the people whose wages they are. Until this question is cleared up, we are going to continue to be needlessly confused about pension issues. We are going to be confused as to whether or not it is legitimate for a Conrad Black to take tens of millions of dollars of other people's property and put it into his own pocket. We are going to be confused about whether to have a permanent moratorium on surplus fund withdrawals or a temporary moratorium.

I am surprised I was not given some advance notice that I would be prevented from introducing a preamble. I will not belabour the point. I would like some indication from the minister, however, as to whether he thinks the principle—

Mr. Ward: You are belabouring.

Mr. McClellan: I am asking my final question. I have allowed myself six minutes per amendment, and I am right on schedule despite the harassment from the table. I would like the minister simply to answer the question whether he thinks the principle that pensions are deferred wages should be clearly and unequivocally stated in the legislation as a guide to assist the courts in future litigation.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: We discussed this in the committee and it is the opinion of the government that there is no preamble in the act, that it is not going to include a preamble and that there will be and is adequate protection for all the parties to the agreement in the pension document. The Friedland committee is addressing the area of mandatory inflation protection and surplus. Given that, along with the other provisions in the act, I think the issue is adequately covered.

1600

On section 1:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that the definition of pension plans set out in section 1 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

“‘Pension plan’ means a plan organized and administered to provide pensions for members under which the employer or employers of members of the pension plan are required to make contributions, or only the members are required to make contributions, but does not include,

“(a) an employee’s profit sharing plan or a deferred profit sharing plan as defined in sections 144 and 147 of the Income Tax Act (Canada),

“(b) a plan to provide a retiring allowance as defined in subsection 248(1) of the Income Tax Act (Canada), or

“(c) any other prescribed type of plan.”

Mr. McClellan: The purpose of the amendment is to add a section that was originally in the government’s draft but was subsequently taken out. The operative phrase is that pension plan means a plan where “only the members are required to make contributions.” For some reason, the ministry has excluded from the definition of “pension plan” a plan organized to provide pensions where “only the members of the plan are required to make contributions.” I think that is a serious defect.

If something looks like a pension plan, smells like a pension plan and has all the appearances and characteristics of a pension plan, it should be defined in this act as a pension plan. There should not be a barrier to its legal establishment and

registration solely by virtue of the fact that only members are required to make contributions. Can the minister explain whether he is prepared to accept this amendment; and if not, why there has been a change of policy on the part of the ministry?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: There has not been a change in the policy. The purpose of the Pension Benefits Act is to set minimum standards for private pension plans in order to protect plan members. A plan that is wholly funded and organized by employees generally does not require the protection of government legislation, and the members of most of such plans, for example group registered retirement savings plans, do not wish to be covered by pension legislation. Presumably, employees would have the option of not participating in an entirely employee-funded plan. This seems to be a preferable method of protecting employees in comparison to extending government regulation.

It certainly has not been a change. One of the conditions of being registered as a pension plan is that the employers must be making a contribution. So it has not been changed; that is just the way it was.

Mr. McClellan: Was there not a provision in a previous draft to include pension plans where only members are required to make contributions? Am I in error on this? It would appear I am. My goodness.

Mr. Ashe: I think the amendment as put forth in the reprinted bill is more appropriate to fulfil the intent of the pension legislation. Therefore, we will not be supporting the New Democratic Party amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan’s motion will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 1 agreed to.

Sections 2 to 7, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 8:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that section 8 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(1a) Notwithstanding clause 8(1)(a), if a majority of the members of the pension plan that is not a multi-employer pension plan so resolve, the pension plan is not eligible for registration unless it is administered by an administrator that is a pension committee composed of an equal number of representatives of,

“(i) the employer or employers, or any person other than the employer or employers, who is required to make contributions under the pension plan, and

“(ii) the members of the pension plan; or

“(b) if the trade union that represents the members of the pension plan that is not a multi-employer pension plan so requires, the pension plan is not eligible for registration unless it is administered by an administrator that is a pension committee composed of an equal number of representatives of,

“(i) the employer or employers, or any other person than the employer or employers, who is required to make contributions under the pension plan, and

“(ii) the trade union.”

Mr. McClellan: What we are simply trying to do again flows from the notion that pension funds and the assets of pension funds are deferred wages and are the property of the members of the pension plan. They are not the property of somebody else. They do not belong to somebody else. They are assets, property, and much of this debate ironically is a debate about property rights. We are talking about the property of employees that is held in trust and managed on their behalf, but our laws up until this point have not reflected this reality.

If we put our money in the bank and it earns interest, there is no confusion as to who owns the interest on the depositor's investment; but if we put money in a pension plan and it earns interest, that interest very often can be legally pocketed by the managers of the pension fund assets. Again, I refer to our old friend Conrad Black who did precisely that. He took the surplus, which represented the investment earnings of the pension plan, and stuck it in his own pocket.

What I am trying to do in this amendment is to make sure that all plans be administered by a committee or board of trustees, at least half of whom are representatives of members of the plan. I want this law to recognize that the people who own the assets, whose deferred wages are being held in trust, are entitled as a matter of statutory right to at least equal representation on all pension administrative bodies, other committees or boards of trustees.

I do not know for the life of me how my colleagues in either the Conservative Party or the Liberal Party can fail to go along with this amendment. If they pretend to defend the rights of property, as they so eloquently do—it is ironic that it is the socialist party that has to bring this to the attention of the House—in this case we are

talking about property rights, the rights of working people to the protection of their own property and to a share in its management and administration. How they can deny employees who request it—that is what the amendment says; if a majority of the members of the plan request equal representation on the pension committee, they should be granted it. That is what this amendment says. I defy the minister or my colleagues in the Conservative Party to oppose this amendment.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Bill 170 provides an advisory committee under section 23, with employee representatives, that can monitor the administration of the pension plan and make recommendations. This is a major improvement over the existing Pension Benefits Act.

In defined benefit plans, the employer bears a risk and must make up any shortfall in the funding. The employees do not bear any risk at all and they are guaranteed their defined benefits no matter what the return on plan investments is. Therefore, it is inappropriate to have 50 per cent employee representation. The advisory committee is a first step in increasing employee participation in the plan administration. We will monitor this and consider changing the degree of employee representation if we feel it is appropriate in the future.

1610

Mr. Ashe: The New Democratic Party, of course, put forth a very eloquent case as to fairness, equity and so on. Frankly, it is a little out of perspective. They happened to use one—and I agree with them—unfortunate example that has been in the private sector not long ago, namely, Mr. Black. I concur with them in their reaction, if you will, to some of his public pronouncements, etc.

Having said that, I do not agree, and I think the minister put it in the proper perspective, that all the assets of a pension plan rightly belong to the employees. I can cite example after example where employers, to meet current needs, if they have excess funds and shortfalls in the actuarial demands in any given year, are being asked to put in a great deal of money over and above what is required. I think they have every right, in fact responsibility to their shareholders, to have the ability to direct those funds at a future time when the situation is a little different.

Again, putting it out in the context of fairness, 50-50 is fine, but that is really not what a plan is all about. An employee puts in X number of dollars or X per cent of his salary per week, per month, per hour or whatever the case may be; the

employer carries the responsibilities over and above that to a much greater degree and, frankly, should continue to have the greater say in that opportunity.

We will not be supporting the amendment.

Mr. McClellan: Not to belabour the point and adhering rigorously to my self-imposed schedule of six minutes per amendment, I really think my two opponents are nuts.

The issue has been distorted by my Conservative friend. I am not calling for a unilateral majority control by pension plan members. I am calling for equal representation of pension plan members, that is to say employees, and the employers, those who are contributing to the defined benefit plans. I am calling for a equal sharing of responsibilities.

Mr. Ashe: They put up half the money to get half the say.

Mr. McClellan: It is deferred wages. You push the Conservatives or the Liberals a little inch off their dime and the notion that pensions are deferred wages that belong to employees evaporates. This is why I think it is so important that it should be in the bill. It is a principle people pay lipservice to, but when it comes to fulfilling the responsibilities of the principle, suddenly an advisory committee is good enough.

You can have your two cents' worth, but in terms of sharing the responsibility of managing your own property, your own deferred wages, the answer is: "Nix, nix. No, a thousand times no." Eventually they are going to be forced to say yes. I have absolutely no doubt about that.

This is an issue that now is at the forefront of collective bargaining, the Big Four in Canada. This is one of the major items on the bargaining table: the question of pensions, the management of pensions, the administration of pensions, the ownership of pension funds and distribution of the earnings on the pension funds. This is now a front-and-centre matter of labour relations. Strikes will be decided on the basis of this issue.

We cannot pretend any more that this is somehow on the back burner; it is on the front burner. If we are not ready to deal with this issue in 1987, I have absolutely no doubt that the Liberals and Conservatives will be forced to deal with this issue in accordance with the principle of deferred wages in a very short period of time.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

The Deputy Chairman: I believe the member for Bellwoods has another amendment, to clause 8(1)(e).

Mr. McClellan: I have an amendment to section 8 which is part of a package of three amendments that are designed to deal with a particular problem that confronts the members and the sponsors of multi-employer pension plans. I propose at this point to stand down each of these three sections until we have completed the rest of the bill.

The three sections are section 8, an amendment to clause 8(1)(e), section 39 and subsection 81(2). I propose that we stand down each of these sections and then come back to them at the end of the bill, either this afternoon or for a short period of time tomorrow, and deal with them as a package.

The three amendments are designed to deal with some serious problems that all of us are aware of, confronting the field of multi-employer pension plans as they relate to the relationship of the Canadian affiliates of international trade unions, and the question of what happens to the Canadian affiliate of an international trade union if that affiliate makes the decision democratically to become an independent Canadian trade union and to break away from the parent international.

Problems have arisen in the past and exist at the present time where the parent international has been unwilling to release pension fund assets in the event of a separation of a Canadian branch to become an independent Canadian trade union. I have been working with a number of concerned trade unionists over the last five months to try to come up with a solution to this very real problem that confronts trade unionists and their membership right here in Ontario even as we debate this.

There is a problem as well with what is happening—and we must be very blunt and candid about the problem—with the administration of some pension plans in the United States. We are aware, for example, to take the most-horrible-case scenario, that President Reagan has published a list of unions which he regards as having involvement with organized crime and which will perhaps even require public trusteeship in the use of pension funds. That is very much at the heart of these concerns.

The Teamsters union, of course, is a notorious example of a union whose pension funds have been used to finance the most amazing kinds of skulduggery. Prosecutions for the misappropriation of pension funds have been secured.

I think we have an obligation to protect the pension assets of Canadian working people and the trade union leaders in this country who are concerned about being able to protect the investment of Canadian workers. To that end, we have tried to design the package of amendments.

Having made that short introduction, I propose not to move my amendment at this time but to stand down section 8, to stand down as well sections 39 and 81, and then deal with the amendments to each of those three sections at the conclusion of the rest of the bill, if that is acceptable to my colleagues.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it agreed to stand down sections 8, 39 and 81?

Agreed to.

Sections 9 to 26, inclusive, agreed to.

1620

On section 27:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that section 27 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

“(5) Where the members of a pension plan are represented by a trade union that is certified under the Labour Relations Act as the bargaining agent for the members and that is a party to the collective agreement filed as a document that creates or supports a pension plan,

“(a) the superintendent shall not register an amendment to the pension plan unless both parties to the collective agreement consent to the amendment;

“(b) the trade union is entitled to notice of any proposed amendments to and proceedings in respect of the pension plan; and

“(c) the trade union is entitled to represent the members of the pension plan in respect of any proposed amendments to the pension plan and in any proceedings before the superintendent or the commission in respect of the pension plan.

“(6) Where any of the filed documents that create and support a pension plan indicates that members of the pension plan are represented by a trade union that is certified under the Labour Relations Act as the bargaining agent for the members,

“(a) the trade union is entitled to notice of any proposed amendments to and proceedings in respect of the pension plan; and

“(b) the trade union is entitled to represent the members of the pension plan in respect of any proposed amendments to the pension plan and in any proceedings before the superintendent or the commission in respect of the pension plan.”

Mr. McClellan: This very long, and hopefully not totally unintelligible, amendment is actually very simple in its intention and what in fact it does. It provides that trade unions have the right where there is a collective agreement that is filed as a document creating or supporting the pension plan—that is to say, the pension plan flows from the collective agreement—it is part of the responsibility under the collective agreement of the trade union to enforce the provisions of the pension plan. The trade union has a responsibility under the collective agreement to its membership for the adequacy, if you will, of the pension plan.

That responsibility flows from the obligations of the leaders of the trade union to their membership, through its negotiating committee and its elected leadership, in negotiating and ratifying the collective agreement. Where there is that kind of obligation on the part of the trade union with respect to the pension plan, there should be the right of the trade union to consent to any changes, so that changes which flow from negotiation cannot be altered unilaterally. In addition, the trade union is entitled to notice and to be able to represent the members of the pension plan in any proceedings before the commission.

The minister will be aware of the obligation that our labour legislation places on trade unions to represent their membership. Those obligations are very onerous, and members can have litigation against a trade union which fails to uphold the rights of an individual member under the collective agreement. We know that our own union, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, has an obligation to take any grievance from any of its members and that it can be severely penalized at law for failure to so represent its membership.

That obligation extends to benefits under a pension plan. It is a matter of simple natural justice to provide the trade union with the kinds of responsibilities and rights that are set out in my amendments: the right to consent to changes, the right to notice of any proposed changes and the right to represent the members of the plan before the commission. The trade union has an obligation to represent the interests of the members with respect to pension matters because they flow out of our labour legislation, but we have not given them the right in this pension statute to do so.

It seems to me there is a major gap. On the one hand, we impose obligation on the trade union movement under our labour legislation, and with

our pension legislation we deny it the opportunity to fulfil those obligations in an adequate manner. Again, I recommend this amendment to both the other parties.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Members currently have the right to notify their unions if they wish and to ask for assistance. We feel it is not appropriate to require union-employer agreements in all pension plan amendments. If we mandated this in Bill 170, there would be a legislative override of existing contractual arrangements regarding how plan amendments can be made.

It is also not appropriate to require that the union be the sole representative of members. Members may request their union to represent them whenever they wish, but we do not wish to deny individual members the right to make their own representations. If it would help the member, we are not prepared to accept a veto by the unions, but if he wants to include a provision that they be notified, we would have no problem with standing the amendment down and working out some method of doing that.

Mr. Ashe: In the way of clarification and a question: the one problem is the question, that really was prompted—I do not see anything within present or past pension legislation that would not allow a union to represent a person, which would seem to be implied by the honourable member from the third party; and again I do not agree.

Frankly, I do not particularly disagree with most of the amendment except clause 5(a), “the superintendent shall not register an amendment to the pension plan unless both parties to the collective agreement consent to the amendment.” Surely that is the whole purpose of the superintendent, to be able to handle proposed changes to any plan, and then notification is fine. Both sides make their case, if you will, and the superintendent approves any changes or otherwise, depending on the case that has been made and the decisions that are finally made.

I would go along more with the idea—and I am not suggesting the words; that should be done more appropriately by others—that the notification aspect is probably more appropriate. It not only fulfils the spirit and the obligation of labour legislation as far as the unions are concerned but also still recognizes the fact that the superintendent is there and, hopefully, is a body that will be able to deal with both sides and make determinations, without having unanimity going in. If there were unanimity going in, there would not be any need or purpose for the superintendent to start with.

Mr. McClellan: If I understand what the minister is saying, he objects to clause 5(a) of my amendment, but he would be prepared to accept clauses 5(b), 5(c), 6(a) and 6(b). That is to say, trade unions would be guaranteed an entitlement to advance notice of any proposed changes to a pension plan and would have statutory entitlement to represent the members of the pension plan before the superintendent or the commission. If that is what the minister is indicating, then perhaps it would be wise to stand down the section, rewrite it in a way that the minister is able to accept and come back to it.

1630

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I do not agree with all the member said, but I am certainly prepared to stand it down, revisit it and see if we can work something out that would satisfy his concerns within the parameters I set out.

Mr. McClellan: I will agree to do that. I ask the minister and his staff to give careful consideration to giving trade unions the right to notice and the right to represent. I think those are both important provisions to put in the plan because of the statutory obligations that other legislation places on trade unions to represent their membership.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there unanimous consent about section 27? Agreed.

Section 27 stood down.

Sections 28 to 31, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 32:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subsections 32(2) to (5) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

“(2) Every part-time employee who, if he or she were a full-time employee, would come within the class of employees for whom the pension plan is established, is eligible for membership in the pension plan on the same basis as full-time employees of the class.

“(3) A pension plan may require that an employee complete a period of employment probation of not more than six months before becoming a member of a pension plan.”

Mr. McClellan: What we are proposing is that the provision for part-time employees be changed really quite radically. The minister has proposed that part-time employees be covered on the basis of the following criteria: That they have earnings of at least 35 per cent of the year's maximum pensionable earnings or the lesser of that and 700 hours of employment with the employer in each of two consecutive calendar years.

Numerous witnesses before the committee testified that would represent an insuperable barrier for a great many part-time workers and that these kind of criteria would serve to continue to exclude many part-time workers from pension coverage. We heard a particularly strong appeal from workers in the health care field, in the nursing profession, that this simply was not good enough, that this simply would not do.

We have consulted fairly widely with employee groups. It is a difficult problem to try to solve. What is the threshold for the inclusion of part-time employees? The conclusion of our study of the problem is simply the language we have put before you, that employees automatically be eligible for plan membership following the completion of a reasonable probationary period. A part-time worker's eligibility cutoff requirement based on earnings is unacceptable. Under these proposals, a full-time worker earning the minimum wage would not meet the earnings requirement for part-time workers. The government's own part-time workers are eligible for pension plan membership if they work approximately 700 hours per year.

Our amendment proposes that part-time employees are eligible for pension plan membership on the same basis as full-time employees and that no further eligibility requirements may be imposed. This, by the way, is the eligibility requirement for part-time pension plan members in Manitoba.

Again, we think this is a better solution to the problem the minister is trying to address than trying to set some arbitrary earnings cutoff line. We do not think it will work. We have been told repeatedly and forcibly by the nurses and other employee groups that it will not work. We have another jurisdiction that has introduced the basic equal membership criterion as full-time employees, and that is Manitoba. We think it is a good solution to the problem and we urge the minister to adopt it.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: In dealing with section 32, the member is suggesting we get rid of two or three of the clauses. What I would like to do is to respond and talk about the two-year period initially. It is a minimum standard only and plans may provide for shorter eligibility periods or unions may negotiate this in their collective bargaining. A two-year period is not unreasonable and is a great improvement over the present Pension Benefits Act, which has no maximum period at all. Employers may prefer to have some indication that an employee is likely to stay for a reasonable period of time before beginning the

administrative steps involved in pension plan membership, and that is the reason for this.

We get back to the other issue. I am sure the member will remember that when we were in committee we heard representations regarding the dollar amount we had proposed of \$9,030 as being the minimum level when you are applying the year's maximum pensionable earnings. We have made an accommodation. We are now saying 700 hours or 35 per cent of YMPE criteria is reasonable, and even the Ontario Federation of Labour supports this formula. Most part-time workers who would be interested in making pension contributions do earn \$9,030 per year or work at least 700 hours per year. We will be rejecting the amendment.

Mr. Ashe: We also do not support the amendment. Frankly, I do not think the criterion of only six months employment as being a minimum is very practical in this day and age. There are many types of employment where people are very mobile and it is really not financially attractive or advantageous to either an employer or an employee to set him up in a pension plan under those circumstances at six months. Having said that, there is no doubt there are certain kinds of quite stable types of employment where six months may very well be the criterion that is agreed between the employer and employees. Of course, that still can take place.

I think the big gain, obviously, in Bill 170 is the fact that after two years it must happen. That is indeed a great step forward.

As far as the criteria on part-time are concerned, I think the inclusion of the 700 hours of employment is reasonable. You are talking roughly of only 14 hours a week or somebody who works year-round on a part-time basis, or obviously under either criteria—and it is “or” rather than “and” with the maximum of pensionable earnings situation.

I suggest it is really not practical to even want to include the majority of others, because frankly, if people are earning on a much lower earning's level or are only working occasionally, usually to supplement income, they are in fact interested in how many dollars they are going to get today and are not too concerned about putting aside a few dollars for tomorrow. Although that may not be a very rational way, not worrying about tomorrow, I think it is a very practical illustration that you have to have a few dollars today before you even want to think about tomorrow.

I do not think the cost of administering a plan and setting up those kinds of small sums would be attractive to most employees for sure, and neither would it be to the employers. We will not be supporting the amendment.

Mr. McClellan: Very briefly, I think we can do better than what is in the bill. I think we are following some very impassioned representation that was made to us by a number of employee groups. They happened almost invariably to be women workers who invariably have been frozen out of the pension field. We were told very clearly that even this formula the minister has put in the bill will continue to freeze out a great many people. The minister can choose to do as he pleases, but I say again he is ignoring representations that were made to us. We have an opportunity to do what was done in Manitoba.

1640

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Sections 33 and 34 agreed to.

On section 35:

Mr. McClellan: In case the minister is wondering, my opposition to section 33 was contingent on my success on the amendment to section 32.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that section 35 of the bill be amended by striking out "reasonably" in the fourth line.

Mr. McClellan: Section 35 states that an employer may establish a separate pension plan for part-time workers if it is "reasonably equivalent" to the plan established for full-time workers. "Equivalent" is subjective, to begin with. There is no criteria as to what is meant by "equivalent."

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Weasel words.

Mr. McClellan: "Reasonably equivalent" adds weasel words to subjectivity. Whatever "reasonably equivalent" is supposed to mean, anybody can guess, but I know weasel words when I see them.

It is vague, undefined, unspecific and gives plan sponsors the kind of leeway that would sell part-time workers right down the river. I am sure the minister realizes that. At least, we would delete the word "reasonably." That does not begin to solve the problem, but at least let us not add weasel words to that kind of vagueness.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: This is one of the items that was a federal-provincial consensus on pension reform. The rationale behind it was that an employer should be permitted to establish reasonably equivalent as opposed to identical plans for full-time and part-time members.

This provides a certain flexibility that may be appropriate in the light of the differing nature of full-time and part-time employment. To say it should be identical may create some problems that cannot be resolved. I think any reasonable person would accept something that is reasonably equivalent, and it will be for the superintendent to determine whether it is reasonably equivalent. We will not be supporting that amendment.

Mr. Ashe: This party is reasonable as well, so it also will not accept the amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 35 will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Section 36 agreed to.

On section 37:

Mr. McClellan: Of course, all our amendments are important but this is one that has cosmic importance. It deals with the vesting provisions of Bill 170.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subsection 37(2) of the bill be amended (a) in clause (a) by striking out "ten" in the third line and inserting in lieu thereof "two"; (b) by adding "and" at the end of clause (a); and (c) by striking out clause (b).

Mr. McClellan: What this amendment does is very simple. It ends once and for all the 10-and-45 year vesting rule; that is, 10 years of service plus age 45 before a worker is entitled to vested pension benefits, before he is entitled to the ownership of his own property, and replaces it with a two-year vesting period.

The minister and the government have been thumping their chests and saying, "We are introducing two-year vesting," but they do not tell anybody that the two-year vesting applies only to money that is contributed to a pension plan after January 1, 1987. They do not tell anybody that the 10-and-45 rule will continue to apply to all pension funds contributed prior to January 1, 1987.

When I was on the select committee on pensions along with the member for London

Centre (Mr. Peterson) and a number of other colleagues, we heard from the superintendent of insurance of the day, Mr. Bentley, that less than 10 per cent of pension contributors ever collected a dime from private pension plans because of the archaic stupidity of the 10-and-45 rule.

I do not understand why the government is maintaining the 10 and 45 rule. The government has accepted that it has made a mockery out of private sector pension plans over the years. It has been a ripoff. It has been a way of companies amortizing their current service contributions and reducing their own cost burdens by factoring in the number of people they will be able to rip off by virtue of the 10-and-45 rule. Everybody knows that. The minister knows that. It is not a secret. It is something that has been documented for years and years. Yet the ministry is proposing to perpetuate the 10-and-45 rule for all funds contributed up to January 1, 1987.

Quite frankly, I think it is outrageous that two-year vesting is not being made retroactive to cover all pension contributors and all their funds. I seek an explanation from the minister as to why this is the case and ask him now to reconsider his position, to wipe out the 10-and-45 rule once and for all and to apply the rational and sound principle of two-year vesting to all contributions.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Again, this is another consensus item.

Mr. McClellan: So what? It is a stupid consensus.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: It may be, but the idea of consensus is that you reach consensus. Sometimes you have to give and sometimes you have to take.

The consensus position was two-year vesting on a prospective basis. Retroactive vesting would increase costs for employers. It would also raise the issue of whether two-year locking-in should also be retroactive. Employees do not want two-year locking-in to be retroactive.

It is a situation where we have made some retroactivity to April 1, 1987. That was on the basis that we had this bill out for wide distribution and we wanted to make sure people like Goodyear and things of that kind were covered, but it was certainly not our intent and certainly not the intent of the consensus to make any of these reforms retroactive past the April 1 date, because quite frankly it would bring a severe cost impact and would create several problems we do not want to address.

I admit that in the past things were not the greatest in pension plans, but that is what this bill is meant to do. It is meant to come forward with

new reforms, but it was never intended that it would be retroactive any further back than April 1, 1987.

Mr. Ashe: Again, this proposed amendment is inappropriate. I think you could compare it to a sporting event in which you decide at half time, whether rightly or wrongly in the context of your rationale, to just change the rules for the second half, but you let only some of the people know. Really, that is not appropriate.

Again, as the minister has pointed out, this is consensus legislation that has been achieved after much discussion by the various treasurers and ministers of finance across Canada over quite a period of time. Ultimately, those negotiations were carried on to consensus that has ended up principally with what we now see before us. I think that is what has to be implemented.

1650

I would suggest I have also been approached by equally as many employees who would not want what would have to be the counter of this, which is locked-in contributions. Many of them are going on the basis that they have the right to take out their contributions, presuming the 10-and-45 rule has not been met, for prior contributions before the effective date of this plan. So again, although it has some merit in terms of the ultimate intent—and there is no doubt we are into better benefits by having locking in, vesting and so on after two years—I think it would be grossly inappropriate for all concerned to suggest that we can make it retroactive for ever.

Mr. McClellan: Again, I am not going to belabour the point. We have had an opportunity to debate this many times in the House in question period and in the committee.

The minister is saying there is a cost factor that would be imposed. That is a joke. Workers have been contributing to pension plans prior to January 1, 1987, and companies have been taking actuarial formulas that tell them with some degree of scientific accuracy how many of these employees they can chisel out of the employer's share of the pension contribution. By making it retroactive, the minister would be forcing companies to honour agreements that require their employees to contribute to pension plans on a matching basis.

The minister describes that as a cost impact. It is like saying to a bank robber who has been apprehended by the police and has to give back the money he stole that it is a cost impact on the bank robber. It is absurd, it is grotesque, and the minister knows it.

We have been witnesses to a systematic ripoff of working people in this province under the previous Pension Benefits Act. One of the instruments of ripoff was the 10-and-45 rule that systematically took away the employer's share of pension contributions from the worker even though they were deferred wages. They were the worker's property, and the law permitted companies to take that money away from them and even to factor into their actuarial formulas the number of employees they could so swindle. There is no other word for it.

To hide behind a consensus is wrong. The 10-and-45 rule is wrong, and it will take 30 years, a whole generation, before two-year vesting has any impact. The minister knows that. He has an opportunity once again to do the right thing by working people in this province and give them the ownership of their own property; but no, the minister says we have to go by consensus, even if the consensus legalizes a ripoff.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment to subsection 37(2) will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Section 38 agreed to.

Mr. McClellan: Section 39 is one of the sections I had asked to be stood down.

Sections 40 to 42, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 43:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan, you have an amendment to section 43.

Mr. McClellan: I am pleased to announce that I am at the halfway mark in my package of amendments, except for all the ones we have stood down.

This is an amendment to the portability provisions of the Pension Benefits Act. This act again is trumpeted by our Liberal friends, our Liberal reformers, as bringing portability to the pension field, but at the same time the provisions of section 43 permit employers to exercise a veto over whether an individual employee's pension credits will be accepted into a new plan.

I do not think I moved my motion, did I, Mr. Chairman?

The Deputy Chairman: No, you have not.

Mr. McClellan: So I will move my motion to clause 43(1)(a).

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that clause 43(1)(a) of the bill be amended by striking out "if the administrator of the other

pension plan agrees to accept the payment" in the second and third lines and inserting in lieu thereof "and the administrator of the other pension shall accept the payment."

Mr. McClellan: In other words, the amendment I am proposing removes the veto from the employer and places the exercise of the option at the disposal of the employee, so that if an employee chose to join the pension plan of a new company, the credits would be assigned a certain value, presumably by the commission, and the employee would be entitled to join a successor plan according to his or her accumulated pension credit.

I understand the argument the minister is going to use: that employers cannot afford the cost, that employers would discriminate, etc., etc. We always have these kinds of economic-blackmail arguments put forward whenever we are removing power and privilege from employer groups and giving rights to working people. We always get the argument based on the threat of economic blackmail. Miraculously enough, the economic blackmail never materializes. If we had listened to all the economic-blackmail arguments, we would not have old age pensions, we would not have child labour laws, we would not have any kind of employment protection legislation at all in this country. But we are going to get the argument again as soon as I sit down.

Nevertheless, the option should be the right of the worker and, if a portability regime is to be successful and meaningful, there should not be the right of veto by employers and corporations as to whether they will agree to accept a new member into an old plan.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am afraid the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) does not understand this particular issue.

Mr. McClellan: Right. That's the other argument.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: What the member is saying is, "Any argument you give me is not acceptable because I do not agree with it." There is no economic blackmail; that is not the issue at all.

What we are saying is this: An employee transfers out of an old plan; when he transfers out into this new plan or a registered retirement savings plan, it is the same amount of money. It is a commuted value that the old employer gives him. What we have is a provision in this act that says the plan administrator of the new plan has the right to agree to accept that person into the new plan.

It could be that if we mandate transfers in, it will create an administrative problem, as the new plan probably will not be compatible with the old one. How is the new employer to determine exactly what that new amount is going to benefit? What is going to happen is they are going to have to get an actuary in there; the actuary will make money and the employee will not be any better off. What we are saying is that the new plan administrator shall have the option of either accepting that employee into the new plan if he thinks it is compatible or, if not, providing a registered retirement savings plan. I think that is reasonable. It does not in any way disadvantage the employee coming into the new plan.

1700

Mr. Pouliot: Provided he is accepted.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Well, no, he does not have to be accepted. If he is not accepted, he will get an RRSP and he will still have his protection with the value that he gets coming in with this commuted value out of the old plan.

Mr. Ashe: Similarly, we will not be supporting the amendment. It is a very impractical amendment. I think the suggestion being put out is that the employee is going to lose all he or she has earned, and of course, not one penny of that is lost. The other options are there. I think if in fact the member were really concerned about employees, he would see how impractical his amendment is, for the exact reason that plans are so drastically different that they quite often will not be anywhere near compatible to the benefit—let alone to the employer, to the employee.

Without obviously making it a public reason that a particular new employee was not hired, it could end up being one of the other criteria on a list if you are forcing an employer to accept an employee's transfer of pensions to a very incompatible plan.

Contrary to the member's view, we are concerned—I am concerned, in any event—about employees in this instance. Therefore, I do not agree that the amendment is very practical at all in doing that. It would just put one other possible obstacle in moving to a new place of employment, and that is not practical for anybody concerned.

The Deputy Chairman: Any further questions or comments to this amendment? Shall the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 43 agreed to.

Sections 44 to 53, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 54:

The Deputy Chairman: Does the member for Durham West have an amendment to section 54?

Mr. Ashe: Yes.

Mr. McClellan: On a procedural point, Mr. Chairman: We are not kidding anybody here. Since the member for Durham West's amendment is going to pass and my amendment is not going to pass, I guess I need the guidance of the chair as to how we deal with this procedurally. I intend to support the member's amendment. I would ask if perhaps I could move my amendment first and have the discussion at least, and then we can move to the fallback position.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: What I would like to do is stand down the government's section 54, allow the member for Durham West to move his amendment and then maybe the member for Bellwoods can move his or do what he wants with it.

Mr. McClellan: I guess it does not matter. It strikes me as backwards, but so do most things around here.

The Deputy Chairman: If the member for Durham West's amendments carry—

Mr. McClellan: What I will do is move an amendment to the member for Durham West's motion.

The Deputy Chairman: Good. It is simpler that way.

Mr. Ashe: I understand that the government has withdrawn section 54, as presently printed.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Ashe moves that section 54 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"54(1) Pension benefits, pensions or deferred pensions shall be adjusted in accordance with the established formula or formulas and in the prescribed manner to provide inflation-related increases.

"(2) Any formula or formulas for any inflation-related adjustments to pension benefits, pensions or deferred pensions shall be established only by amendment to this act."

Do you have this one, Minister?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Yes.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan, do you have one?

Mr. McClellan: Yes.

The Deputy Chairman: In subsection 2, you read "any formula or fomulas." There should be an "r" there—"formulas."

Mr. Ashe: Briefly, on this aspect, what this is recognizing is the principle, which has been agreed to by all parties in this Legislature, to in some way try to recognize inflation-related increases as something that is beneficial to the future of Bill 170 and the whole pension benefit process. Having accepted that as a premise and a general agreement, we all know that there is a committee now looking into how to do that in an appropriate manner, in what fashion, etc. As that committee has not had opportunity to make its recommendations for consideration, it is probably a little premature to try to suggest how this should be done.

But what this section does do is give indication, which is now obviously being supported by the government, that when there finally is some agreement and consensus as to how to implement some form of inflation protection, it must come before this Legislature for adequate hearing and adequate debate before finally becoming the law of the land.

Mr. McClellan: I will start by moving my amendment to Mr. Ashe's amendment and then we will have everything on the floor and can debate it all. Members will have to bear with me for a moment while I read a real inflation protection amendment and move its adoption.

1710

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that Mr. Ashe's amendment be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"54(1) Effective the first day of January 1987, every pension plan shall be deemed to provide that an annual inflation adjustment benefit is payable to each person entitled to payment of a pension under the pension plan.

"(2) The annual inflation adjustment benefit in respect of a pension is payable at the same times and in the same manner as the pension, commencing the first month of the year next following the year in which the pension first becomes payable.

"(3) Every pension plan shall be deemed to provide that each person entitled to a deferred pension under the pension plan is entitled to an annual inflation adjustment benefit.

"(4) The annual inflation adjustment benefit in respect of a deferred pension shall commence the first day of January 1987, or the first month of the next year following the year in which the person entitled to the deferred pension plan ceases to be employed, whichever is the later.

"(5) The annual inflation adjustment benefit in respect of a deferred pension is payable at the same times and in the same manner as the deferred pension.

"(6) The amount of the annual inflation adjustment benefit shall be calculated to three decimal points in January of each year according to the following formula:

" $A = P \times C \text{ over } D - P$, where A is the annual amount in dollars of the annual inflation adjustment benefit payable in the year, P is the sum of the annual amount of the pension payable in the year or, in the case of a deferred pension, the annual amount of the deferred pension that will become payable plus the total of the amounts of the annual inflation adjustment benefits accumulated in the preceding years, C is the average of the consumer price index for Canada over a 12-month period ending September 30 in the previous year and D is the average of the consumer price index for Canada over a 12-month period ending with September 30 in the year immediately preceding the year to which C applies.

"(7) The section applies in respect of every pension or deferred pension payable on or after the date on which this section comes into force and whether or not payment of the pension or deferred pension commenced before such date.

"(8) In this section, 'consumer price index for Canada' means the consumer price index for Canada as established by Statistics Canada under the authority of the Statistics Canada Act."

Mr. McClellan: What that algebraic perfection does, very simply, is provide mandatory inflation protection at the level of 100 per cent of the consumer price index. I take for my authority the sacred text written under the name of the Honourable Larry Grossman, QC, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics of April 1984, the document entitled Ontario Proposals for Pension Reform.

It remains an excellent document. Obviously, I do not agree with all the philosophical premises in the document, but I think it was something of a minor masterpiece to be produced by the government of Ontario. It deals with the question of the cost impact of mandatory inflation protection. I am referring to appendix C, "The Impact of Inflation and Inflation Protection Formulae on Pension Costs."

Without belabouring the point, on page 88 of the appendix is that wonderful chart which shows the sensitivity of cost to inflation and alternative inflation protection formulae, which was the basis for the policy statement made by the

previous government that a figure of 60 per cent mandatory inflation protection was acceptable, feasible, rational and doable without disruptive cost impacts.

That was true in 1984 when inflation was about the same as it is today; perhaps a little higher. The study shows that at rates of inflation below double-digit figures, the cost impacts of 100 per cent inflation protection are negligible. The study shows that cost impacts would start to become a difficulty if inflation returned to double-digit figures. The study shows that cost impacts decrease at rates of inflation protection of 60 per cent, obviously because of the impact of the relationship between inflation and fund earnings, the interest accruing on the fund by virtue of profit-taking from interest and investment.

I think a strong and defensible case has been made, not just for 60 per cent inflation protection, but for full inflation protection at 100 per cent of the consumer price index. The documentation is solid. The studies are strong and valid. We have the evidence before us that 60 per cent has no cost impact—in fact, it has a negative cost impact—and 100 per cent is manageable.

We know from the evidence before the standing committee on general government that major auto companies, for example, have already awarded inflation protection. The major auto companies came before the standing committee like a group of terrorists and said that if inflation protection were built into the legislation, they would shut down the auto industry and move somewhere else.

The same people revealed under questioning that they already provide a level of inflation protection at about the level of 60 per cent for their own work force and that what they were talking about is the difference between 60 per cent and 100 per cent. If it went to 100 per cent, they would dismantle the auto industry, stop building cars in the Ontario market and hold their breath until they turned blue and dropped dead.

I do not think I have ever heard such an insulting presentation before members of this assembly as the presentations made by General Motors and Ford. Perhaps it was because they were at the beginning of collective bargaining and the pension issue was up front and centre on the bargaining table this year and what they were doing was rehearsing in the most insulting possible way the line they intend to use in collective bargaining. I do not know. I do not know what to make of that incredibly grotesque performance.

I hope it has not frightened my colleagues in the Legislature. I hope the Conservatives, even at this late date, can find the courage to stand by their own policy which, I remind the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), who is here for the debate, represented mandatory inflation protection at a level of 60 per cent.

I do not know what we will get from the Friedland task force. I intend to support my colleague's amendment if my amendment does not carry, because what the government has done is to end once and for all the confusion that was created by the minister himself when he said the Friedland task force could very well be a feasibility study which would report as to whether inflation protection was possible in the first place. At least that has been dealt with, I assume, by a series of well-placed thumps to the head of the minister from some of his cabinet colleagues.

We have now an amendment, first from the minister, now amended by the member for Durham West, which would provide mandatory inflation protection tied to a formula which will be introduced into the bill at a later date. I think we can do better than that. We have the material that permits us to do better than that and I hope we can do better than that.

I think working people in this province expect that this minority parliament would have dealt with the question of pension reform and would have come up with a reform of the Pension Benefits Act that set a definite level for inflation protection and guaranteed them the right to expect more than the steady deterioration of their purchasing power in their retirement years.

We will have to wait for Friedland, and it could well be a pig in a poke. The Friedland committee contains three representatives: one representing the finance industry, one representing the trade union community and a lawyer chairing. I do not know what to expect from this group. With respect, and I do not prejudge, I have no idea what to expect from this group.

1720

I think we have a responsibility to do what we can here today to provide protection against the ravages of inflation which have destroyed the retirement dreams of a whole generation of Canadians. All of us have members of our own family who have experienced, particularly over the course of the last 10 years of double-digit inflation, the complete extermination of their retirement dreams and hopes. People who thought they were adequately protected with

private sector pensions saw their dreams wiped out.

I had an aunt who retired from the T. Eaton Co. in the 1960s with a pension, if you can believe it, of \$30 a month. She lived until the 1980s with a pension of \$30 a month.

I hope we will deal with this in more than a token way. I cannot help thinking that the fallback position which the ministry has introduced and which the opposition parties are amending and supporting is half a loaf. I think we can do better; I hope we will do better.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Notwithstanding the authority of the minor masterpiece, we will not be supporting the amendment of the member for Bellwoods but we certainly will be supporting the amendment of the member for Durham West.

I just want to comment briefly. The Friedland task force is meeting. All members, if they so desire, will have an opportunity to make representations to that task force. I am confident, notwithstanding the comments of the member for Bellwoods, that it will not be a pig in a poke but that the task force will deal with it responsibly and will come forward with recommendations that all parties can accept.

I think it is a responsible way to go. There is obviously a very serious implication. It is something where there certainly is not unanimity, and when you talk to parties, regardless of who they are, depending on where their point of view is, everyone has a different perspective.

It is felt that by bringing together those three gentlemen, who represent varying interests, they can come up, along with their support staff, with something that will be rational, fair, equitable and doable. I am looking forward to that and I am looking forward to supporting the amendment of the member for Durham West.

Mr. Ashe: We obviously will not be supporting the amendment, although there is a general consensus regarding some form of inflation protection.

This party in fact has not backed down from its previous commitment and its previous incarnation, if you will, when we were part of the dialogue across Canada. What we are acknowledging is the fact that it is not just black and white, as the member for Bellwoods would like to point out. There is not just the implications for the car industry in the sense that, yes, it already gives substantial inflation protection. There is no doubt about that at all, but they are also in a very competitive industry.

Once again, we are concerned about the jobs in that industry, even though sometimes the mem-

bers of the New Democratic Party would enforce legislation that would drive away jobs in this province—drive them away completely and for ever. We are concerned about people. We are concerned about jobs, and pension legislation is part of that concern. When there are changes to be made, they have to be rational, they have to be thought out in advance and put in force in a practical way.

One of the concerns of the auto industry, quite rightly—and I have seen some of the numbers, actuarially sound numbers—would be a comparison to the new part of the automotive industry in Ontario and in Canada that has come in from offshore. They have no current pension liabilities whatsoever, let alone anything from the past. When the member is talking from \$200 to \$500 of potential extra costs on an automobile in a very competitive industry, that means jobs, but not new jobs; it means lost jobs.

There are also the implications of the reserves, of something mandatory that would not be properly put in place. Again, that is jobs, because if a company does not make any money, believe it or not, it cannot stay in business for ever.

Last but not least, everything that has to be done, I suggest, is geared to increase the percentage of private pension plans that are out there. There is only about 37 per cent covered now. Any kind of a change that would reduce that number is surely not the goal of this Legislature. It is to increase the attractiveness of a plan, yes; a practical approach to increase the numbers of employers that can and will create plans for their employees, so that not too far down the line we are up to 40 per cent, 45, 50 and, ultimately, to aim that nearly everybody in this province will have a private pension plan to supplement government ones. This kind of amendment will not do that.

The Deputy Chairman: Are there any further questions or comments on the member for Bellwoods's amendment? Shall the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

The Deputy Chairman: Are there any questions or comments on the member for Durham West's amendment?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Ashe: I have an amendment to section 54.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Ashe moves that

the bill be amended by adding thereto the following section:

"54a. Any formula or formulas for inflation-related adjustments to pension benefits, pensions or deferred pensions prescribed by this act shall not increase the requirement for reserves and shall ensure that that portion of inflation-induced surplus attributable to earnings originating from contributions made under the plan in respect of retired plan members shall be distributed to those plan members."

Mr. Grossman: I might take this opportunity to speak to this important amendment to get a couple of points on the record in addition to the ones well made by my colleague the member for Durham West.

I will begin by saying that I know the minister, who in my experience is a fair-minded person, will take care at some stage in this process to note just how much this bill tracks the work done by the previous government and the then Treasurer. In fact, I do not mind saying it is a source of some modest pride that I share with the Treasury or Financial Institutions staff the completion of this piece of work, on which I personally invested many hours, too many I would think, even though it is now dated three or four years.

I am delighted to see that the government has adopted almost unchanged most of these recommendations. That gives me some degree of gratification that the steps we took as long as three years ago proved they could stand the test of time and proved to be ones acceptable to the current government. So it is with some pride that I note the coming passage of this important piece of reform, and I hope the minister will be kind enough to remember some of the fathers of this reform.

In moving the amendment we have just put, it is important for me to put on the record, for the benefit of the minister and his consideration in the policy sense and the consideration of Professor Friedland and his committee, what I remember as the genesis of this amendment. The genesis of this amendment is not a decision made by us at the time to require pension plans to index people against inflation. That was patently a policy we rejected on all counts all across government at the time we were in, in the belief that when you index to inflation, you ensure continuation of inflation.

What we were trying to do was something different. It was not inflation protection, though we adopted that misnomer and I regret that. What we were trying to do was something reflected in appendix C, to which my colleague the member

for Bellwoods has referred. Let me read appendix C of the pension reform proposals which I published in April 1984. Paragraph 3 reads, "The real issue underlying mandatory inflation protection is the existence and allocation of the inflation component of pension plan investment earnings."

To emphasize the point made there, it was not to force pension plans suddenly to take the responsibility for indexing to the rate of inflation; rather the real issue was the existence and allocation of an inflation-induced surplus.

1730

It goes on to say, "By mandating inflation protection, pension reform recognizes that a share of the inflation component belongs to plan members and should be used, regularly and predictably, to escalate their benefits." Nothing in here says that the purpose of pension reform ought to be to put a new responsibility on pension plans, to force them to take on the indexing-to-inflation responsibility. I think it says here fairly clearly that the question is the use and allocation of an inflation-induced surplus.

It goes on in the concluding paragraph to reinforce that point. "The issue of inflation protection in pension plans revolves around the existence and allocation of the inflation component of a pension plan's investment earnings. Under existing pension legislation, there are no criteria for the allocation of the inflation component. Plan sponsors have used this to enrich the benefits of active plan members, to lower pension costs or to provide voluntary ad hoc inflation adjustments. In many cases, the inflation component has been withdrawn from plans as part of a declared pension plan surplus."

Here is the key sentence. "By mandating inflation protection, pension reform recognizes that a proportion of the inflation component"—meaning the inflation-induced surplus—"belongs to plan members and should be used, regularly and predictably, to escalate their benefits." That is what our amendment today seeks to do.

As my colleague points out, as the auto companies said when they appeared before the standing committee on general government, they have chosen over time to use the inflation-induced surplus to provide the very ad hoc adjustments we are talking about.

There are two important issues there. First, they have not been required by legislation to index to inflation and therefore have not had to set up a massive reserve fund against that future liability. We have tried to adjust the bill to say that nothing we are doing here intends to put on a

new reserve requirement. The second point is that companies should only be asked by the government to make sure that the right people share in the inflation-induced surplus. That is all we were trying to do.

In the case of the auto companies, the important point is this: Because of the voting membership of the Canadian Auto Workers, the retired plan members are active voting members of the union. Therefore, they are represented at the negotiating table when the union goes to bargain with the employer.

The genesis of this was that we looked at the 1980-82 period and discovered that inflation had come along and produced massive, unexpected surpluses. Some companies, not the majority and not all, sat down at the negotiating table with the union. Each of the negotiating parties looked at a huge, unexpected surplus and decided to bargain it away to the current employees represented by the union. The retired employees were not at the table, and in too many cases, that inflation-induced surplus was bargained to the current employees.

First, the fact that it did not happen in the auto unions proves precisely the point we are trying to make, which is that this is not an added cost because we are redistributing between benefit recipients, not adding a cost. Second, it proves the point because what we are trying to do is only to make sure that the right employees get that portion of inflation-induced surplus that they ought to be getting. Third, it makes the point that where retired employees are not represented at the table because they no longer vote in the union, there has to be some protection built in for them.

To try to simplify a complex area, the genesis of what has come to be called inflation protection is this: A look and a discovery, retrospectively, that inflation came along and produced unexpected surpluses, that these surpluses were too often, as noted in the report, either bargained away on behalf of improving the pensions for current employees or simply taken back into the company.

I asked this question: What portion of a surplus, of whatever size, represents the inflation-induced return on the moneys put in by the retired employees? The answer to that question was the answer kicked out by the formula that my colleague the member for Bellwoods has referred to, in our case 60 per cent. So it was not, and this is a key point, a desire to index pensions to 60 per cent of the rate of inflation. It was a formula that would be a

general guide, that would tell a person how much of a surplus was due to the inflation-induced returns on the deferred wages of retired employees.

The actuaries and accountants came back—I would not understand it; my colleague the member for Bellwoods devised that formula himself but I could not do that—and they said, “Minister, if inflation is, say, 10 per cent, 60 per cent of the rate of inflation, six per cent, would be the figure you would use to ascertain how much of that surplus rightfully belongs to the retirees.”

That is why our amendment is so key. It emphasizes that this is not an attempt to put more cost on pension plans. It is instead simply a process by which we make sure that the people who justifiably are entitled to that surplus get it. It is simply a shift between current employees and retired employees. It is not an added cost. It is simply saying, “This formula will tell you how much you should not give to the current employees out of that surplus and how much should rightfully go to the retirees.”

I have spoken to Professor Friedland and relayed this thought to him, as the minister knows. He quite properly pointed out that he had a broader mandate, an inflation protection mandate. What he did do was urge upon me that we not proceed with the 60 per cent formula because he had a lot of work to do. They had updated analyses and a lot of information that he suggested I would like to have before I moved forward with a formula. I respect Dr. Friedland and his counterparts too much to proceed until they have had a chance to have their hearings and analyse that information.

In moving this amendment, what I hope to do is allow this Legislature to give a clear direction to that committee that it does not have. That committee is seeking inflation protection in the classical sense that my colleagues to the left, the New Democrats, seek it. This process, however, started with something very different. It was redistribution of who is entitled to an inflation-induced surplus. I think, with respect, the answer the minister would get from Dr. Friedland would be far more consistent with the goals of pension plans and what this pension plan reform process was intended to do than the broader question the minister has put to him.

I put the minister and my colleagues on notice that when the report comes back, we will be seeking to do what I have always sought only to do, which is not to add cost to pension plans and not to give pension plans the responsibility of indexing to inflation, but simply to try to arrive at

a system whereby the retired person's pension contributions are protected to the extent that when inflation induces a higher-than-expected return on their investments, that return does not go into someone else's hands but goes first to those persons.

1740

In closing, let me emphasize the point. If what we were really talking about was inflation protection, then one would advocate 100 per cent because that is inflation protection. That is why we never endorsed it; it was not inflation protection. If one were seeking to give all inflation-induced surpluses to employees, as the New Democrats would do, one would not have the amendment I put.

I believe the surpluses in pension plans fundamentally have one obligation, that the inflation-induced portion earned on retired people's investments go to the retired employees. The balance of it, provided it is total surplus above the required reserves, does in fact belong to the companies that underwrite the risk of underfunding.

It is not meant to eliminate the surplus or to take it all away from the companies; it is simply meant to ensure that the portion that belongs rightfully, in my view, to the retireds is not either taken into the company or given to the actives.

It is for that reason I wanted to have this amendment moved by our party. I ask the minister seriously to consider the amendment even if it should not pass today—and I hope it does—and reflect upon it together with Professor Friedland. As he and his colleagues think carefully about whether what they really want to do is index against inflation or provide protection to retired employees against their earned surpluses being redistributed to others, I suggest what the minister ought to want to do is to deal with redistribution, not added costs and not indexing to inflation, i.e., inflation protection.

I urge members to support the motion.

Mr. McClellan: Very briefly, we will not be supporting the amendment that is being put forward by the Conservative Party.

Members will notice in the middle of the amendment the phrase "any formula...shall not increase the requirement for reserves." I guess there is a fundamental difference of approach between us and the Conservative Party. The Conservatives are talking, I think, about an excess-interest approach but are ruling out in advance the imposition of additional costs on employers.

That is a neat trick, but I am afraid it is not going to solve the problem of pensioners in our society. One does not rule out, obviously, the use of the excess-interest approach, but a blanket statutory prohibition against increasing cost obligations on pension plan sponsors would be simply to close a number of doors which, quite frankly, need to be kept open if we are going to deal with the question of inflation protection in a meaningful way.

Because the Conservatives have backed away so completely from their previous commitment to inflation protection, if they want an excess-interest approach, I do not know what kind of numbers they are talking about with respect to the valuation interest rate, the real economic return as opposed to the inflation return. My understanding is that actuaries are able to calculate an economic return at somewhere between six and seven per cent. If that is what the Conservatives are talking about, we are still talking about a ripoff. A real economic return should be in the neighbourhood of two or three per cent.

Again, because of the general vagueness of the position held by the Conservatives and their obsession with minimizing the cost to pension plan sponsors, we are not able to support the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: We will not be supporting the amendment, but I hope the Leader of the Opposition will listen when I say that I really want to take this opportunity to acknowledge his work on a lot of the preparation for this act. There is no secret about it, and I have said before publicly that I acknowledge that the former government put a great deal of work into arriving at the consensus and coming up with a document.

I also want to acknowledge the support of the member for Bellwoods and his input into this process. I hope I am not premature in acknowledging that this has been a co-operative effort. I welcome the co-operation of all the members, especially the member for Durham West. It is something I certainly appreciate.

What I want to say, though, is that I think there has been a fundamental change. It may be one of perception, but certainly it has seemed to me all along that we have been talking about mandatory inflation protection. It would seem that we now have a different perception, that it is not really inflation protection; it is really providing for the allocation of excess interest to those retirees.

I am not in any way saying that is not something that should be looked at, but I think it is not appropriate in this particular context, because what we are really talking about is our

commitment to inflation protection. What we are saying is that we are committed to inflation protection, but we do not know quite what the figure should be. That is what the Friedland task force is going to determine.

I just wanted to put on the record, because I understand we are approaching the vote, that we will not be supporting the amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: Are members ready for the question on section 54? Shall the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Sections 55 to 63, inclusive, agreed to.

1755

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 8, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 21; nays 70.

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 32, which was negatived on the same vote.

Section 32 agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 35, which was negatived on the same vote.

Section 35 agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 37, which was negatived on the same vote.

Section 37 agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 43, which was negatived on the same vote.

Section 43 agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 54, which was negatived on the same vote.

The Deputy Chairman: We will now vote on a new amendment adding section 54a to the bill, Mr. Ashe's amendment.

All those in favour of the motion will please rise and remain standing.

Same vote reversed?

I declare the motion carried.

Shall section 54 carry?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: There was Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 54; that was defeated.

The Deputy Chairman: That is correct. There was a new amendment, section 54a.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: There was a new section 54, though.

The Deputy Chairman: We carried that.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: But what we were talking about was section 54, and then you said we have a new section 54.

The Deputy Chairman: I said we have Mr. Ashe's amendment, a new amendment adding 54a. That is exactly what I said.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: We are against that.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Because of the confusion—

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there unanimous consent that we take the vote again?

Some hon. members: No.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, since unanimous consent has been refused—have we completed all the amendments?

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: No.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Then go ahead with them.

The Deputy Chairman: All the amendments have been done.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: So they have been completed.

The Deputy Chairman: All the votes have been carried.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, if you would care to put the question again on unanimous consent, you might have a different result.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there unanimous consent that we should place the vote again? This is on Mr. Ashe's new amendment, section 54a.

Agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. Ashe's amendment to add a new section 54a, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 30; nays 61.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

The House adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

CONTENTS

Wednesday, June 24, 1987

Members' statements

Statue of Giovanni Caboto, Mr. Shymko	1650
Ontario Federation of Students, Mr. Warner	1650
New ventures program, Mr. Ferraro	1650
Ontario student assistance program, Mr. Eves	1651
Ontario Lottery Corp., Mr. Laughren	1651
Schools in Mexico City, Mr. Reycraft	1651
Hastings Blue Heron Festival of the Arts, Mr. Sheppard	1652

Statements by the ministry

Access to community services, Hon. Mr. Ruprecht	1652
Safety in sports, Hon. Mr. Eakins	1653
Hours of work, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1654

Responses

Access to community services, Mr. Grossman	1655
Hours of work, Mr. Gordon	1656
Access to community services, Mr. R. F. Johnston	1656
Hours of work, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Rae	1656

Oral questions

Auto pact, Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1657
Northern health services, Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Elston, Mr. Pierce	1658
Hours of work, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Wrye, Mr. Mackenzie	1660
Workers' compensation, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1661
Ontario student assistance program, Ms. Gigantes, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1662
Rent regulation, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Curling	1663
Assistance for people with brain injuries, Mr. Wildman, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1663
Funding for sports, Ms. Hart, Hon. Mr. Eakins	1664
Fire prevention, Mr. Cousens, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1665
Assistance for people with brain injuries, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1665
Sentences for child abuse, Mr. Mancini, Hon. Mr. Scott	1666
Ministry legal counsel, Mr. Sheppard, Hon. Mr. Keyes	1667
Speech pathologists, Mr. Foulds, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1667

Petitions

Transit services, Ms. Caplan, tabled	1668
Therapeutic abortions, Mr. Pollock, tabled	1668
Hospital funding, Mr. D. S. Cooke, tabled	1668

Reports by committees

Standing committee on regulations and private bills, Mr. Callahan, agreed to	1669
Standing committee on administration of justice, Mr. Brandt, agreed to	1669

First readings

Bees Act , Bill 96, Hon. Mr. Riddell, agreed to	1669
Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act , Bill 97, Hon. Mr. Grandmaître, agreed to	1669
Health Protection and Promotion Amendment Act , Bill 98, Hon. Mr. Elston, agreed to	1669
Centre for Educative Growth Act , Bill Pr12, Mr. Morin, agreed to	1670
Ontario Safe Drinking Water Act , Bill 99, Mrs. Grier, agreed to	1670
Crown Witness Protection Act , Bill 100, Mr. Runciman, agreed to	1670
City of Hamilton Act , Bill Pr67, Mr. Charlton, agreed to	1670
Ontario Energy Board Amendment Act , Bill 101, Mr. Charlton, agreed to	1670
Ministry of Colleges and Universities Amendment Act , Bill 102, Mr. Warner, agreed to	1670

Committee of the whole House

Pension Benefits Act , Bill 170, Hon. Mr. Kwinter, Mr. McClellan, Mr. Ashe, Mr. Grossman, progress reported	1670
--	------

Other business

La fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste , l'hon. M. Grandmaître, l'hon. M. Peterson, M. Guindon, M. Pouliot, M. Shymko, M. Rae, M. Poirier, M. Morin	1647
Baseball game , Mr. Warner	1652
Adjournment	1688

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)
Caplan, E. (Oriole L)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC)
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)
Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)
Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)
Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
Hart, C. E. (York East L)
Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Minister of Financial Institutions (Wilson Heights L)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)

Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House and Acting Speaker
(Carleton East L)
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and
acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)
Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental
Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines (London Centre L)
Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)
Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)
Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)
Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)
Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)
Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)
Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development
(York North L)
Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)
Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)



No. 34

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Third Session, 33rd Parliament
Thursday, June 25, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, June 25, 1987

The House met at 10:02 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

RIDING OF PARRY SOUND

Mr. Eves moved resolution 20:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should designate the entire riding of Parry Sound, specifically the district of Parry Sound, as being part of northern Ontario for the purpose of all government ministries, agencies, boards and commissions.

Mr. Eves: It is with some reluctance, I must say, that I have to be here today in the first place to introduce this private member's resolution. I would have thought that in the last 24 months the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who also twins as the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, would have acquiesced to my requests and the many requests of my constituents and municipal leaders throughout the district and riding of Parry Sound to have done something last month in his budget, where he outlined spending of \$35 billion, \$8 billion more than the province spent in 1985, when he became the Premier.

I would have thought that if the Premier really had the true interests of northern Ontario at heart and had paid attention to the correspondence and many resolutions he has received from myself and constituents over the last two years, he would have done something about it by now.

I am somewhat regretful that we have to go through this, but we shall proceed, and perhaps out of political embarrassment, if for no other reason, the government of the day will see fit to include the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario.

First of all, I would like to go over some of the history of the district and riding of Parry Sound and why it finds itself in the particular predicament that it finds itself in today.

For many years, the district and riding of Parry Sound was spelled as if it was in Never Never Land, so to speak—not quite northern Ontario and not quite southern Ontario. In 1976, the town of Parry Sound hosted FONOM, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, for its annual

meeting. Interestingly enough, FONOM had considered Parry Sound to be part of northern Ontario and one of its members for many years.

In late 1976, FONOM passed a resolution requesting the government of the day to include the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario for the purpose of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, for the specific purpose of municipal grants. For those members who are not aware, municipalities in northern Ontario receive larger municipal grant structures, payments and transfer payments than do municipalities in southern Ontario.

The government of the day and the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier), the Minister of Northern Affairs at the time, acquiesced to the request of the then member, the Honourable Lorne Maeck, and granted that status to the district of Parry Sound. They got what they asked for at that time.

It has been suggested by some members of the government that perhaps the previous government should have done something about including the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario. Well, the previous government was never asked to include the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario for the purposes of all ministries.

I might also read another indication of the previous government's commitment to the district of Parry Sound. At the FONOM meeting held in Parry Sound on April 28, 29 and 30, 1977, another resolution was submitted by the town of Parry Sound requesting the government of the day to include the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario for the purpose of purchasing motor vehicle licences; it made reference to the fact that gasoline prices were higher in northern Ontario than they were in the rest of the province.

I might add that the government of the day acted immediately upon that request and included the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario for the purposes of motor vehicle licences as well, recognizing the fact that there was a difference. They responded to it, and they responded to it immediately, I might say.

In 1985, 1986 and 1987, the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association, which comprises all 28 organized municipalities in the district of Parry Sound and some seven from the district of Nipissing, unanimously passed resolutions ask-

ing that the district of Parry Sound be put into northern Ontario for the purposes of all ministries of the Ontario government.

These resolutions have been forwarded directly to the Premier, to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and to relevant other government ministers upon their passage, both by myself and by the association as well as by other interested municipal politicians. Unfortunately, none of the ministers has seen fit to respond positively to any of these requests, nor has the Premier of the day seen fit to acquiesce or respond positively to any of these requests.

If one goes back to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) introducing his northern travel grant program—I believe it was on December 5, 1985—I wrote to the minister on December 13, shortly after its introduction, and asked him if he would not include the district of Parry Sound in his northern travel grant program.

The minister responded to me that the program was a new one, that his ministry would have to look at the effects it was going to have and that it was not so much whether or not you were northern in Ontario but the distance, which was 300 kilometres, that made the difference as to whether or not you qualified for the program.

It is interesting to note that just a few months ago the same minister reduced the qualifications for that program to 250 kilometres, yet has still not seen fit to include the district of Parry Sound in the northern travel grant program.

Nor does his ministry consider the district of Parry Sound to be part of northern Ontario for any other purpose, I might add. This would certainly mean increased payments to hospital boards and to hospitals within the district of Parry Sound. More particularly, it would also provide tremendous financial aid to the many constituents, literally hundreds of constituents, who have either written or phoned me over the last two years, complaining that they do not qualify for northern health travel grants because they reside in the district of Parry Sound.

This affects many people, but especially cancer patients who commute weekly—some monthly, depending upon the stage of illness and their particular problem—to Princess Margaret Hospital here in Toronto for treatment. These people have to pay their travelling costs out of their own pocket or rely upon local service clubs to pay those for them. Despite the fact that we have made this plea repeatedly to the Minister of Health and to the Premier, we have seen no positive action from either with respect to this program.

1010

Now, some two years later, we have another response from the Minister of Health. He has referred this entire matter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître) so he can co-ordinate an approach by all ministers. It is nice that the only action this government has seen fit to take is to decide two years later that it is going to throw this hot potato to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and maybe he can deal with it at some time in the future. I do not think that is good enough.

The riding of Parry Sound, for those members who are not fully conversant with respect to the riding boundaries, is the district of Parry Sound plus everything in Nipissing district lying north and east of North Bay. We have the peculiar situation that there are some residents of the riding who live in the district of Nipissing portion of the riding who are actually farther south in the province than many residents in the district of Parry Sound, for example, who live on the south shore of Lake Nipissing. They qualify for northern health travel grants, despite the fact that they live farther south; but the people in the district of Parry Sound who live farther north than they do, do not qualify for northern health travel grants. I suppose only the Minister of Health of the day could explain that sort of convoluted logic as to how you could qualify for a northern health travel grant by living farther south in the province. I do not think it makes much sense, and it certainly causes great hardship to those many constituents.

Another ministry that has a very detrimental effect on the district of Parry Sound in not recognizing the district to be part of northern Ontario is the Ministry of Education. Over the years, the Ministry of Education has sort of come part-way; it now recognizes the district of Parry Sound to be in northern Ontario for the purposes of six of the nine northern Ontario factors. The other school boards in northern Ontario all receive nine additional weighting factors to their grant transfer payments. The district of Parry Sound boards—namely, the east and west Parry Sound boards of education—receive six of the nine. In other words, I guess the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) regards the district of Parry Sound to be two thirds northern Ontario but not quite three thirds. I do not know how you would ever come to that convoluted logic either, but that is the decision which the Ministry of Education has reached.

I have tried to persuade the Minister of Education to also consider the district of Parry

Sound to be in northern Ontario for the purposes of all nine weighting factors. The only response I have had to that correspondence and to those questions is that the Ministry of Education is currently reviewing the factoring and educational funding in its entirety throughout Ontario, so the minister would be totally unwilling and does not see fit to consider this specific request until the entire province is reviewed; he expects that review will not be completed until the fall of 1987, and therefore he can make no such commitment. That is his response. That has been the Premier's response to this problem as well.

To give some idea of the dollars we are talking about here, the east and west Parry Sound boards of education alone each would receive in excess of approximately \$200,000 a year more money if they were included in northern Ontario for the purposes of all nine weighting factors for northern Ontario. You can see the big impact it has with respect to the field of education as well as health care.

Those are probably the two ministries that have the biggest impact on not being included in northern Ontario, but there are others as well; for example, the Ministry of Transportation and Communication. We note in the recent budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) how much more money the government plans to spend in northern Ontario. However, the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay) was in North Bay and Sudbury a few weeks ago with grand foofaraw supposedly delivering this government's commitment to four-laning Highways 69 and 11. Then we found out about a week later, through questions in the House by the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), that we are not really committing ourselves to four-laning these highways at all. All we are committing ourselves to is to do some studies and planning to look into the practicalities of whether and when we may decide to four-lane either one, both or none of these two highways.

They also made reference to the fact that they were going to spend some of the \$26 million supposedly added to the northern affairs budget for highways in northern Ontario to do some of this planning, yet it is very interesting that the highway they are talking about doing the studies on they do not consider to be part of northern Ontario because that particular ministry does not recognize the district of Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario. That comes out of the budget of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications; it does not come out of the budget of the Ministry of Northern Development

and Mines. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has nothing to say about where this money is spent in the district of Parry Sound. It is somewhat contradictory.

The member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) is here, I see. He was in attendance at a FONOM meeting in 1986 in the town of Parry Sound, which is where FONOM's annual meeting was. I must say that at that time he was the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and made a commitment that his government would seriously look into putting the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario for the purposes of all government ministries. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter the member for Cochrane North was no longer the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and I gather that commitment has been sitting in the Premier's office gathering dust since then.

I have raised this matter directly with the Premier, who is also the Minister of Northern Development and Mines these days, on several occasions. I have raised it by way of questions in the Ontario Legislature. I have raised it by way of members' statements. I have raised it by way of sending him carbon copies and direct letters on all these requests I have made to all these various ministers in the Ontario government over the last two years.

I would like to quote some remarks of the Premier from Hansard from February 12, 1987, in the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. I outlined the dilemma that the district of Parry Sound finds itself in, much the same as I have done here this morning. The Premier's response to me on that occasion was:

"The case you make is a rational one, and I am not going to tell you it is not. It is a question of making some of these judgements that have to be made along the way.

"With respect to the northern travel situation, I can see that being a real problem. It would be a real problem wherever it was, as you know. Mr. Bernier brought to our attention some problems in the Kenora area. It is a relatively new program. There are some kinks that probably have to be worked out in the situation. Nothing is sacrosanct. My view is that if we are wrong, let us change it.

"If you will allow me, I will go back with renewed vigour to discuss this with my colleagues, particularly the three you bring to my attention."

That is a quote from the Premier, who is also the Minister of Northern Development and

Mines. Obviously, the Premier does not have much influence in pursuing his renewed vigour with some of his cabinet colleagues, because that was on Thursday, February 12, 1987. Just last month his government and his Treasurer introduced a budget to spend \$35 billion in this province. I would have thought that would have been a very opportune time to decide to take this step, to spend the extra money and include the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario, but obviously the Premier was not able to influence the Treasurer or his other cabinet colleagues to include the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario.

I have to wonder whether or not the Premier really has any influence over his government, whether or not he controls his government or whether or not he is really trying and these are just words, so to speak.

I think that at this particular point in my presentation I would like to reserve the remaining minutes that I have for some comments to respond perhaps to other comments that other members may have with respect to the resolution and to wrap up at the end.

The Deputy Speaker: The member is reserving four minutes and five seconds.

1020

Mr. Foulds: I take a good deal of pleasure and delight in rising to speak to this resolution and indicating my support for it. One of the reasons I am supporting this is that the New Democratic Party in the 1970s, when it established its northern council of the party, included Parry Sound, if it wished to join northern Ontario, and it did. As far as I am concerned, anybody who wishes to join northern Ontario can, for a number of reasons.

First, we need the company. We need all the company we can get, because we need to expand the power block of northern Ontario in this Legislature.

Ms. Caplan: How about North York? But then you get Mel Lastman.

Mr. Foulds: Mel Lastman we would exclude. North York is going a little far south. We have our standards and Mel Lastman does not meet them.

Second, we know that Parry Sound is an essential part of northern Ontario. Every time one of us from northern Ontario sets off in a car from Toronto and heads north, we can tell Parry Sound is part of northern Ontario because as soon as we hit Highway 69, what do we get? A measly two lanes, very few passing lanes, probably the

worst stretch of busy highway in the province. That obviously needs improving.

Now that we have had 44 years of Conservative government, I know that is not going to fundamentally change, but we just have to try.

Seriously, if I could be personal for a few minutes—and I always am, anyway—some of the problems of Parry Sound have come to my attention in the past couple of years because my son, who many of you know is a pretty good competitive swimmer, has won two weeks at a swim camp in the riding of Parry Sound and I have had the pleasure of driving him there.

When we think of the distances and the spread-out nature of the population, we see some of the very same problems we see in rural northern Ontario, such as the need to improve ambulance services and the need to improve fire protection services, particularly in those areas that would be very small communities or unorganized territories. I had correspondence with the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) because one of my constituents who has a summer cottage in the Parry Sound district pointed out to me a very tragic situation where there was need for emergency ambulance service and it just was not available in that area. It is that kind of thing that needs to be improved in Parry Sound, as it does all through northern Ontario.

Therefore, if the grant structure through the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines for education and health services was available to all the district of Parry Sound, that would help to improve the situation.

The other point I want to make is that Parry Sound is to Ontario very much what northwestern Ontario is to Canada; that is, it is caught between the north and the south. It is sort of the hinge of the province, just as northwestern Ontario is the hinge of the country. Just as everybody in western Canada thinks of northwestern Ontario as part of fat-cat eastern Canada, I suppose Parry Sound is thought of by most northerners as part of fat-cat southern Ontario. Southern Ontario does not include Parry Sound in terms of its design for development and industrial expansion.

I want to take the last few moments of my time this morning to make a plea. I do not think I want this interpreted as a separatist speech, but I have come to the conclusion that it is a mistake, and has been a historical mistake, for northwestern Ontario to be part of this province. If we wanted to have the power that is necessary to get the services we need, it would be much better for northwestern Ontario to be part of Manitoba.

Mr. Wildman: The member just wants to be a cabinet minister in Pawley's government.

Mr. Foulds: No. I have decided to step down from politics, so those ambitions do not pursue me any longer.

Ms. Caplan: Be careful—they might make you Labour minister.

Mr. Foulds: They would not get into trouble if I were.

If we stop to think of it, northwestern Ontario has a population of about 250,000. That population is about a fifth of the population of Manitoba. If we were moved into Manitoba, we would have a fifth of the seats in the Legislature instead of the measly one twenty-fifth of the seats we have in this Legislature. That power block, along with northern Manitoba, would certainly balance the metropolitan centre of Winnipeg and we would, in fact, get a better government for that region no matter which party was in power.

At the present time, one of the problems that northwestern Ontario faces, frankly, is that for all of the excellent representation it has had over the years from all three parties, it is essentially an underrepresented area, and an area that is ignored by the province because it can afford to be ignored by the province. Any attention that is paid to it is paid in a paternalistic way. In that way, I do not believe the structural problems, economic in particular, that affect the area will be attended to.

It is really important, if we are going to make areas like northwestern Ontario an essential part of Ontario, just as it is really important if we are to make Parry Sound an essential part of the province, that we go beyond this resolution, because at the present time, unfortunately, all that the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines does is tackle the symptoms of the problems rather than the essential problems.

It will, as an initial step, I remind the member for Parry Sound, give more access to some grants and some programs, but if we are to essentially improve the situation in Parry Sound, just as if we are to essentially improve the situation in northwestern Ontario and just as if we are to essentially improve the situation in northern Ontario and make those parts of the province an integral part of the province, we must change the power structure between Queen's Park and those areas, between the south and the north, and to do that, you have to take, if I may say so, socialist action. That is, you must intervene in the economy to make them an essential part of the economy. That is not a revolutionary idea because governments of all stripes in other

jurisdictions have done that to underdeveloped areas in their countries: Austria, Sweden and Japan.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: That is Liberal action.

Mr. Foulds: It is not Liberal action. Liberal action, if I may say to the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), is basically well-intentioned but ineffective when it comes to changing the economic structure of a country, a province or a nation, because Liberal action believes that the present economic structure is sound. Frankly, the present economic structure is not sound to develop the underdeveloped regions of our province or of our nation.

What we need is socialist action that makes those an integral part of our economy and that means intervening in the marketplace. The marketplace no longer exists as it did in the 19th century when liberalism had some justification, but liberalism in the 20th century, in economic terms, simply does not work because the economy has moved past that stage.

Therefore, while I support this motion, I agree with the intention and I sympathize with the situation in which the member for Parry Sound finds himself, I do not believe that it will meet the essential developmental and financial needs of Parry Sound, just as I do not believe that the present government or the past Tory government essentially met the needs of northern Ontario or northwestern Ontario to make those part of the economic and social mainstream of our province.

Mr. Ramsay: I appreciate the treatise on socialism and liberalism from the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) and possibly we could enter into a debate later on that, but I would like to address—

Mr. Bernier: That is your former belief.

Mr. Ramsay: The former minister from Kenora and I may be able to enter a debate on conservatism later on, possibly over a pickerel dinner some day.

1030

I would like to address the motion this morning and say to the member for Parry Sound that it is not up to the ministry or the Minister of Northern Development and Mines to make that decision. It is actually up to the cabinet. I would like to assure the member for Parry Sound that this has the highest priority before cabinet right now, because of the Premier's interest in the topic.

As the member will remember, it was the member for Parry Sound who brought this up in estimates. We are giving it active consideration. I would like to note, though, it is a bit unfortunate

that this government has been left with all sorts of untidy ends, a lot of loose ends from the previous government.

When the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines was formed—back in 1977, I believe; the founding minister is in the House and he can correct me if I am wrong—I would have thought that would have been the time to tidy up these loose ends and make a very firm definition of what is northern Ontario and where should the line be drawn?

At that time, Parry Sound was said to be included in the mandate of this ministry but not for the other ministries. That was a bit of a conundrum that, unfortunately, the previous government had eight or nine years to deal with but failed to do it and left it upon us to do it. Our cabinet will be considering it and will be making a decision very soon.

I can understand why the member for Parry Sound would like to see his district included, as far as the jurisdictional map of northern Ontario is concerned, in regard to all the ministries of the government, because the government of Ontario does treat northern Ontario in a special way because it is an extraordinary place in Ontario. It is extraordinarily beautiful. It has an extraordinary, energetic and ambitious people, but it has the penalty of geography from being away from the major markets. It has other penalties running against it that need extraordinary action, and the government has deemed it wise—the previous government and this one—to take that extraordinary action.

I am very proud of the programs that the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has ongoing and is considering for the future. I understand why the member for Parry Sound would like to see his district included in all the ministries as being a part of northern Ontario.

I would like to say that we brought this question to the northern development councils. The member for Cochrane North, as the member for Parry Sound has said earlier today, is very aware of this problem and feels it should have been considered, and basically took it to northerners, the NDCs, for consideration.

All the councils across the north said yes, they felt it was a good idea to have Parry Sound to be considered as part of northern Ontario. When that was brought before all the chairmen, they also agreed. That, basically, is the opinion before the government. That is a very strong opinion and this government is listening to northerners and will be giving that active consideration.

There certainly will be some advantages if Parry Sound is treated by all ministries as northern Ontario. As the member pointed out, the Ministry of Education does have an extra nine per cent grant to municipalities under 25,000 population that would be a benefit up to about \$500,000 to the Parry Sound district. I can see why the member for Parry Sound is fighting for that.

I would like to argue somewhat, though, with the member on the necessary-health-travel program. Because the kilometric limitations are 250 now does not mean that every resident in Parry Sound would be eligible. There will have to be a line drawn, obviously, at the 250-kilometre mark to the different access points where medical service is available in southern Ontario, but it would affect some of the constituents of Parry Sound. I can understand again why the minister would want to avail his constituents of this program.

It is a very good program. We got it off the ground last year. We made some improvements to it. We are, as the member said, starting to iron out the kinks, but it is a program that has been very well received, because it is the principle of this government, and especially of this ministry that northerners deserve nothing less than what the people in the south deserve. I think the health travel grant is one very concrete way this government has shown that we believe northerners have and deserve equal access to medical services.

Some of the services we have in Ontario are the best in the world. They tend to be congregated in southern Ontario, and we believe northerners should have access to those good services.

I applaud the member for fighting for his constituents. It is the job of all northern members to do that in this Legislature. I think we all do it for our constituents because we know we do have some disadvantages in the north.

I would like to debate a couple of points that the member for Port Arthur brought up this morning. He was citing that he thought the government, particularly my ministry, was just there to administer Band-Aids to some of these problems.

I believe that since this government took over, it has really tried to turn around the orientation of this ministry to no longer be just a Band-Aid applicator but to be really attacking main and difficult infrastructure problems.

I think foremost of those infrastructure problems, as the member for Port Arthur mentioned, is highways. Ground transportation is vital in

order to develop secondary industry. It is all well and good to be able to produce manufactured goods anywhere in this province, but if we cannot get them economically to the market then there is no point in setting up those industries.

We are starting now not only to fund in a much larger way but also to look at those main transportation routes between south and north; hence my announcement the other day that we are starting the planning of the four-laning of Highways 11 and 69.

I am sorry that a lot of the bad-news bearers from the north in the opposition wanted to dump on that and the member for Parry Sound has written articles and columns about that in the Parry Sound press. I am disappointed that he takes good news so poorly—

Mr. Eves: It was recommended by Jim Snow in 1980 and again in 1985, and you guys hacked it up.

Mr. Ramsay: I would like to say to the member that there was not one stick of engineering work on the shelf for the four-laning between Powassan and North Bay. I would invite the member for Parry Sound to talk to the minister and he will confirm that there was not one stick of engineering work done on Highway 11 between Powassan and Huntsville; not one.

Mr. Eves: We are talking about Highway 69 from Waubesaushene. You know the difference between the two highways.

Mr. Ramsay: Okay. We are now starting that up anew. That has never happened before. On the four-laning work from Waubesaushene north, the engineering work and the multi-year plans are so old that they no longer satisfy the criteria of the Ministry of the Environment. What we are doing now is restarting that engineering so that the engineering will come up to the present-day standards required by the Ministry of the Environment so those multi-year plans can continue. We are starting to do that work so that this planning work will lead to the multi-year plans of construction and continue the work that has gone on.

As a matter of fact, I was extremely disappointed a couple of months ago when I made the inquiry to see what were the multi-year plans for Highway 11. I was extremely depressed to find there were none. The perception had been by the previous government, when construction was continuing through Huntsville and also construction was proceeding south from North Bay, that obviously the government had intended to join the two routes, but there were no plans at all. There was no intention, regardless of what

statements may have been made by former ministers of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications; there was not one stick of engineering work, planning work or prefeasibility work for that Highway 11 construction.

We now have kick-started that, and the people in the North Bay and Parry Sound areas are pleased with that. We are taking the present engineering off the shelf and we are proceeding with that work. That is good news for the north. We have got to get good transportation routes to the north and within the north. Parry Sound district already benefits from our ministry's funding of provincial highways in the Parry Sound area. Many northerners do not realize it is the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines that basically funds the highway construction and MTC is the facilitator in northern Ontario. The two ministries work together and the two ministries are determined to improve the infrastructure in northern Ontario so that the economy can flourish.

As a matter of fact, this afternoon the member for Cochrane North and I are meeting with the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) to finalize many of these northern projects that we want to see going, that we know are going to be rebuilding the economy of northern Ontario.

I think the message is being presented to northerners, and I think what northerners want is a chance to rebuild their own economy. For the first time, northerners are going to start to take the economy into their own hands and not be dependent upon outsiders just to create the jobs. The entrepreneurial spirit is now starting to build in the north, and we will build a new economy in northern Ontario.

1040

Mr. Pierce: I rise in support of the resolution by the member for Parry Sound to have Parry Sound included as part of the great section of Ontario called northern Ontario. It is interesting to note that a number of the ministries in the province recognize Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario. Yet we have other ministries that, for some reason or other, have decided within their own ministries that they are not going to recognize Parry Sound.

For example, we have the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology which recognizes through its programs that Parry Sound is, in fact, part of northern Ontario. It recognizes that in the form of the involvement of the Northern Ontario Development Corp., which is the lending agency for the province and looks after programs in

northern Ontario. That is a major program for the development of northern Ontario for secondary-industries growth, tourism and the development of northern Ontario. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology has recognized that region as being part of northern Ontario.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services recognizes Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario. Because it is an area for easterners and southerners to use, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation recognizes Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food recognizes it as being part of northern Ontario. The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations recognizes it as being part of northern Ontario. The Ministry of Energy recognizes it as being part of northern Ontario, as does the Ministry of Revenue.

The great Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Premier has said, will study whether Parry Sound should be part of northern Ontario; yet the Ministry of Municipal Affairs recognizes Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario. The Ministry of Housing recognizes Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines recognizes Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario—

Mr. Ramsay: So what is the problem? What is left?

Mr. Pierce: What is the problem? That is it. What is the problem? What is the problem for the Minister of Health in recognizing Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario? Had the Minister of Health recognized Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario, it would have cost his ministry \$50,000 last year to have the northern health travel grants available to the residents of Parry Sound. What is the problem with the Minister of Health? It is not only in Parry Sound that we have a problem with the Minister of Health, but in this case it is certainly a blatant exhibition of a minister who is not prepared to accept the responsibility of delivery of health services in northern Ontario.

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has an office in Parry Sound. If that is not recognition of Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario, I do not know what else we could have. The Minister of Education refuses to acknowledge it because it would cost the Ontario government some money to provide additional assistance to the schoolchildren of a northern section of northern Ontario. That is really the only reason the Minister of Education refuses to acknowledge Parry Sound: because it would make a difference in the weighting factor for the

schools to the benefit of the students—not to anybody else's benefit but to the benefit of the students—in order to allow them an educational system which will provide the same types of programs available in other regions of Ontario.

The programs of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines are not specific for Parry Sound. The Ministry of Natural Resources has failed to acknowledge that Parry Sound is part of northern Ontario. Why? I ask the member for Timiskaming, the member who is the parliamentary assistant for the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, who stood up in the House today and said: "It is not an individual ministry which can dictate or direct whether Parry Sound will be part of northern Ontario; it is a cabinet decision."

I have just named seven, eight or nine different ministries that acknowledge Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario. Is the member trying to tell us in the House today that those nine ministries do not have any influence on the remaining ministries of this government to recognize Parry Sound? Is he saying the other ministries are powerful enough in that cabinet that they can say, "We are not going to recognize them for any reason whatsoever, and if you want to recognize them that is entirely up to you"?

I have a number of issues I would like to talk about but I know that the member for Kenora would very much like to be part of the debate. I would ask for unanimous consent to reserve the remaining part of my time for the member for Kenora. Agreed?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): You cannot do that.

Mr. Pierce: With unanimous consent, the House can do it.

The Acting Speaker: You can pass it on to your colleagues on the left but you cannot pass it on to another member.

Mr. Pierce: All right, Mr. Speaker, that being the case, if unanimous consent does not represent the strength and the power of the House, then I will continue.

I think the member for Port Arthur said in his comments, for example, that because of his son's involvement in the swimming programs—

The Acting Speaker: Is there unanimous consent that the member for Rainy River give his allotted time to the member for Kenora?

Agreed to.

Mr. Pierce: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I support the resolution of the member for Parry Sound, and all members of the House are

supporting the resolution of the member for Parry Sound. I would expect that when the House recesses today he will go back with—

The Acting Speaker: There will not be too much time left.

Mr. Bernier: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your reconsideration of the member for Rainy River's request.

I stand in my place today and support the member for Parry Sound in his notice of motion number 20 which would bring Parry Sound into northern Ontario. Quite frankly, I was surprised that the member had to put a notice of motion of this magnitude and concern in Orders and Notices. I just took it for granted, after all the years I was in the previous government, that Parry Sound was indeed part of northern Ontario, from my point of view.

In fact, when we brought in the \$10 registration for automobiles across northern Ontario, it was the former member for Parry Sound, Lorne Maeck, who prevailed upon the government to change it and have it moved down to Parry Sound. In 1977—I think that is when the major change did take place in this Legislature and across this province—the government of the day recognized the special and unique nature of northern Ontario by establishing a special ministry, the first regional ministry in the Ontario government's history, in this province's history, the Ministry of Northern Affairs, that would look after those special interests and unique needs of northern Ontario. They did include Parry Sound. We brought in all the programs of the ministry at that particular time.

When we look at the district of Parry Sound from a municipal point of view, it has something like 35 organized municipalities and 47 unorganized communities. That is the way northern Ontario is in the districts. We do not have the county government structure that southern Ontario has, so it is obvious that Parry Sound really does belong to northern Ontario. The terrain, the people, and the thoughts and attitudes of the people of the Parry Sound, are obviously oriented to northern Ontario. So to hear the member complain and to bring this motion forward and plead with the government to have all ministries consider Parry Sound as part of northern Ontario is a bit of a surprise and a bit of a shock to me.

We heard the member for Timiskaming stand up again today and say it is the highest priority, it is under active consideration, "We are sympathetic, we are concerned, we are going to study it, we are going to review it." I have to tell him

the people of northern Ontario are sick and tired of those comments. Two years have gone by, and the government has been saying this.

We have heard it from all the ministers as they traipse across northern Ontario with massive amounts of promises. They never say no to anything in northern Ontario when they are there, but nothing ever happens. It is going to show up at the next election, because the promises that the government has made and the expectations that it has raised among the northerners are really high, but nothing happens. There is no production, there is nothing at the end, so the government is going to have to answer those questions at election time.

As I traipse across northern Ontario, I get the same feeling right across the north: "We are going to review it. We are going to study it. The Premier is in favour of it. Yes, we are going to do it. The cabinet is going to study it." That is gone. It is finished. I have to tell the government it has to move. This is one issue that it could move on and get some credibility, because credibility and integrity are gone from that side of the government.

The Acting Speaker: Your time has expired.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I am glad that you are in the chair today because I know that although you are not a northerner, you have an active interest in northern Ontario. You spent a lot of time in North Bay in your former position, and I know have a good understanding of the difficulties we face in northern Ontario.

1050

I stand in support of the resolution. When I was thinking about what position I would take on this private member's resolution, I had to think about how one defines the north, what is northern Ontario. It certainly is not just a geographic location. It is not just north of the French River or north of some other body of water or something like that. It is more than just a geographic location. In fact, if we look at geography and think about the latitude of most of northern Ontario, even the northwest, in many cases we are south of what is mostly considered western Canada. It is not geography or latitude.

How does one define northern Ontario? I think we have to define it in terms of the economic and social structure. Obviously, northern Ontario is a hinterland. It is an area that is not in the centre. It is dependent on an economic centre elsewhere for its growth and for its development. It is an area that is dependent upon resource exploitation, whether it be mining or forestry. It is an area

that has very little secondary industry. It has stunted industrial development.

It is an area that is generally very dependent on tourism, and that tourism is not the kind of tourism that one has in a large city or urban centre but rather one that is dependent on the resources again. It tends to be a tourism which benefits from the wilderness experience and from hunting and fishing and getting away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

It is an area, too, where the transportation and communications links are different. In northern Ontario we no longer have what could be called a network in terms of transportation and communications. There is no longer a grid, but rather it becomes two or three long ribbons holding together very widely spread pockets of population. That makes it very difficult to develop economically and to ensure that there is proper growth spread over the area.

It is also an area that has stunted administrative development. As has been mentioned, northern Ontario tends to have very large areas that have no municipal organization, many communities that have never developed along the lines of southern Ontario municipalities.

When we look at northern Ontario in those terms, certainly Parry Sound fits. All of those things are descriptions of Parry Sound district, and so it makes sense that Parry Sound be part of northern Ontario.

I would like to comment briefly on some of the remarks that have been made about who is doing what for northern Ontario. It has been a little amusing to listen to the members of the government party saying everything is wonderful in northern Ontario since they became the government, and talking about the interest they are taking in the north. Then we hear members of the official opposition saying, "Well, nothing is happening and there are a lot of problems that have been long-standing." They were there before, so it is a little amusing to hear that kind of argument.

It would be more useful, frankly, to sit down and say: "All right, what is needed in the north? What has been done in the past and why has it not worked? Why have we not changed the stunted, economic development that we have in northern Ontario." The reason it has not changed is because basically the approach has been to change grant formulas. I know this is one of the reasons the member for Parry Sound wants to have his area included in northern Ontario, because there are easier grant formulas in the north.

To improve, and basically to throw money at various problems and see if we can change things or improve the infrastructure is something else that has been argued. In this debate, it has been argued that this government has made a difference in the north because it has taken such an interest in the north. It has expanded and moved ministries into the north and put jobs into the north and it is a good thing, but obviously that does not really change anything.

The suggestion was made that there is a difference in approach, along the lines my colleague the member for Port Arthur was talking about, the need to intervene. I question that. I question whether this government really believes that it should challenge the market forces which have produced the kind of stunted economic development that we face in northern Ontario and have experienced ever since the railways first cut across the Canadian Shield.

Does this government question the fact that economic development decisions should essentially be made by the private sector in boardrooms in Toronto and New York? Does this government question that? Frankly, I doubt it. I do not think so. Does this government believe that economic decisions should be more democratic, that the people those decisions affect should in fact be making those decisions? It has been said that because they have economic development councils set up that is an indication of a more democratic approach to economic decision-making. I think it is useful to have input, but those councils are not making the decisions that matter.

They can talk about whether Parry Sound should be in northern Ontario. They can talk about which highway should be improved or what planning should be done in terms of government spending. But do they actually influence the decisions that are made by Inco and Falconbridge and Great Lakes Forest Products? Not one iota.

Nothing, in that sense, has changed; and it will not change until we have a government that actually believes it should challenge the market forces, and should not just be involved in infrastructure planning but should also be involved in economic planning, that will actually direct investment to ensure we have the economic growth and development in the communities in the north that we need. Unless we have that, it is not going to benefit Parry Sound a great deal other than being able to take advantage of the Band-Aid approaches, the different grant formulas that the former government and this govern-

ment continue to use to say they are responding to the particular problems of northern Ontario.

It has been said that one of the examples of this government's different approach is that it is committed to four-laning Highway 69 and Highway 11, which I know have significant importance in Parry Sound. If the government had been honest with the people of northern Ontario, Parry Sound and the rest of the province and said, "We are going to initiate planning and engineering studies and prefeasibility studies," there would not have been any problem. We would have said: "All right; fine. That is what is needed."

Instead, this government said, or at least a representative of this government said, "We are going to four-lane those two highways from southern Ontario to North Bay and to Sudbury." In fact, that is not going to happen for at least 10 to 15 years. If they had said exactly what they planned, then we would know they were interested in the north and being honest with the north. Unfortunately, it appears nothing has changed.

Mr. Eves: It is my pleasure to wrap up and I would like to respond to a couple of comments made, but I want to make sure I get on the record a couple of general comments or feelings.

I note with interest, and I do not doubt for one moment, the member for Timiskaming's sincerity in his active role as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. However, he says it is under active consideration. I just point out to the honourable member that it has been under active consideration by cabinet for the last 24 months.

This is not just a brand-new thing. This is something that the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association passed resolutions on in the fall of 1985, the spring of 1986 and again in the spring of 1987, and brought them to the attention of the various ministries, the Premier and the member's boss, so to speak, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

There was progress made over the years. In 1977, when the Ministry of Northern Affairs was first created, the district of Parry Sound was included for the purposes of that ministry, and over the years my colleague the member for Rainy River has outlined the other ministries that have come on stream one at a time.

When my colleague the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) was the Minister of Education, she saw fit to bring the Ministry of Education part of the way at least—not as far as we would have liked, but she did bring it part of

the way. When my colleague the member for Nipissing was the Minister of Natural Resources, he made a commitment to me that he would consider the district of Parry Sound to be part of northern Ontario for the purposes of his ministry as well. It is too bad that his successor has not followed up on that commitment.

However, this is the whole idea of this resolution here today, to try to spur on some of these cabinet members to some greater heights, so to speak. I just have to go back, though, to the comment of the Premier in February that he would try to pursue this idea with renewed vigour. Either the Premier does not have much influence over the rest of his cabinet colleagues—

Mr. Wildman: Or not much vigour.

Mr. Eves: Or he does not have much vigour or is not truly committed, as exactly said by my friend the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman).

1100

With respect to the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association, all these municipal representatives certainly have made their point felt with respect to where they think the district of Parry Sound should be, and I think properly so, even in the issue of redistribution. When it was proposed that Parry Sound be lumped in with Muskoka, there were more presentations from the district of Parry Sound than any other sectional hearing—all seven or eight ridings in each one of those sectional hearings put together—throughout the province. There were 52 delegations from the district of Parry Sound objecting to being included with Muskoka, because we do not consider ourselves to be part of southern Ontario or part of Muskoka.

I think that some of the comments made by the member for Algoma are quite accurate and correct. I think that for all purposes, the district of Parry Sound is indeed northern Ontario.

I do want to comment, though, on a couple of the comments made by the member for Timiskaming with respect to commitments. I think everybody in this House knows that you cannot four-lane Highway 69 or Highway 11 in one year, two years or three years. All we ask for is a definite commitment—not a commitment to study, not a commitment to do engineering, but a commitment that those highways will be built within 10 or 15 years and that we are going to do 10 miles a year, 20 miles a year or whatever it is. We want the commitment and we want it now. No government in its right mind, present or succeeding, would every dare go back on that commitment. I do not know why that commitment cannot be made.

that has very little secondary industry. It has stunted industrial development.

It is an area that is generally very dependent on tourism, and that tourism is not the kind of tourism that one has in a large city or urban centre but rather one that is dependent on the resources again. It tends to be a tourism which benefits from the wilderness experience and from hunting and fishing and getting away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

It is an area, too, where the transportation and communications links are different. In northern Ontario we no longer have what could be called a network in terms of transportation and communications. There is no longer a grid, but rather it becomes two or three long ribbons holding together very widely spread pockets of population. That makes it very difficult to develop economically and to ensure that there is proper growth spread over the area.

It is also an area that has stunted administrative development. As has been mentioned, northern Ontario tends to have very large areas that have no municipal organization, many communities that have never developed along the lines of southern Ontario municipalities.

When we look at northern Ontario in those terms, certainly Parry Sound fits. All of those things are descriptions of Parry Sound district, and so it makes sense that Parry Sound be part of northern Ontario.

I would like to comment briefly on some of the remarks that have been made about who is doing what for northern Ontario. It has been a little amusing to listen to the members of the government party saying everything is wonderful in northern Ontario since they became the government, and talking about the interest they are taking in the north. Then we hear members of the official opposition saying, "Well, nothing is happening and there are a lot of problems that have been long-standing." They were there before, so it is a little amusing to hear that kind of argument.

It would be more useful, frankly, to sit down and say: "All right, what is needed in the north? What has been done in the past and why has it not worked? Why have we not changed the stunted, economic development that we have in northern Ontario." The reason it has not changed is because basically the approach has been to change grant formulas. I know this is one of the reasons the member for Parry Sound wants to have his area included in northern Ontario, because there are easier grant formulas in the north.

To improve, and basically to throw money at various problems and see if we can change things or improve the infrastructure is something else that has been argued. In this debate, it has been argued that this government has made a difference in the north because it has taken such an interest in the north. It has expanded and moved ministries into the north and put jobs into the north and it is a good thing, but obviously that does not really change anything.

The suggestion was made that there is a difference in approach, along the lines my colleague the member for Port Arthur was talking about, the need to intervene. I question that. I question whether this government really believes that it should challenge the market forces which have produced the kind of stunted economic development that we face in northern Ontario and have experienced ever since the railways first cut across the Canadian Shield.

Does this government question the fact that economic development decisions should essentially be made by the private sector in boardrooms in Toronto and New York? Does this government question that? Frankly, I doubt it. I do not think so. Does this government believe that economic decisions should be more democratic, that the people those decisions affect should in fact be making those decisions? It has been said that because they have economic development councils set up that is an indication of a more democratic approach to economic decision-making. I think it is useful to have input, but those councils are not making the decisions that matter.

They can talk about whether Parry Sound should be in northern Ontario. They can talk about which highway should be improved or what planning should be done in terms of government spending. But do they actually influence the decisions that are made by Inco and Falconbridge and Great Lakes Forest Products? Not one iota.

Nothing, in that sense, has changed; and it will not change until we have a government that actually believes it should challenge the market forces, and should not just be involved in infrastructure planning but should also be involved in economic planning, that will actually direct investment to ensure we have the economic growth and development in the communities in the north that we need. Unless we have that, it is not going to benefit Parry Sound a great deal other than being able to take advantage of the Band-Aid approaches, the different grant formulas that the former government and this govern-

ment continue to use to say they are responding to the particular problems of northern Ontario.

It has been said that one of the examples of this government's different approach is that it is committed to four-laning Highway 69 and Highway 11, which I know have significant importance in Parry Sound. If the government had been honest with the people of northern Ontario, Parry Sound and the rest of the province and said, "We are going to initiate planning and engineering studies and prefeasibility studies," there would not have been any problem. We would have said: "All right; fine. That is what is needed."

Instead, this government said, or at least a representative of this government said, "We are going to four-lane those two highways from southern Ontario to North Bay and to Sudbury." In fact, that is not going to happen for at least 10 to 15 years. If they had said exactly what they planned, then we would know they were interested in the north and being honest with the north. Unfortunately, it appears nothing has changed.

Mr. Eves: It is my pleasure to wrap up and I would like to respond to a couple of comments made, but I want to make sure I get on the record a couple of general comments or feelings.

I note with interest, and I do not doubt for one moment, the member for Timiskaming's sincerity in his active role as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. However, he says it is under active consideration. I just point out to the honourable member that it has been under active consideration by cabinet for the last 24 months.

This is not just a brand-new thing. This is something that the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association passed resolutions on in the fall of 1985, the spring of 1986 and again in the spring of 1987, and brought them to the attention of the various ministries, the Premier and the member's boss, so to speak, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

There was progress made over the years. In 1977, when the Ministry of Northern Affairs was first created, the district of Parry Sound was included for the purposes of that ministry, and over the years my colleague the member for Rainy River has outlined the other ministries that have come on stream one at a time.

When my colleague the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) was the Minister of Education, she saw fit to bring the Ministry of Education part of the way at least—not as far as we would have liked, but she did bring it part of

the way. When my colleague the member for Nipissing was the Minister of Natural Resources, he made a commitment to me that he would consider the district of Parry Sound to be part of northern Ontario for the purposes of his ministry as well. It is too bad that his successor has not followed up on that commitment.

However, this is the whole idea of this resolution here today, to try to spur on some of these cabinet members to some greater heights, so to speak. I just have to go back, though, to the comment of the Premier in February that he would try to pursue this idea with renewed vigour. Either the Premier does not have much influence over the rest of his cabinet colleagues—

Mr. Wildman: Or not much vigour.

Mr. Eves: Or he does not have much vigour or is not truly committed, as exactly said by my friend the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman).

1100

With respect to the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association, all these municipal representatives certainly have made their point felt with respect to where they think the district of Parry Sound should be, and I think properly so, even in the issue of redistribution. When it was proposed that Parry Sound be lumped in with Muskoka, there were more presentations from the district of Parry Sound than any other sectional hearing—all seven or eight ridings in each one of those sectional hearings put together—throughout the province. There were 52 delegations from the district of Parry Sound objecting to being included with Muskoka, because we do not consider ourselves to be part of southern Ontario or part of Muskoka.

I think that some of the comments made by the member for Algoma are quite accurate and correct. I think that for all purposes, the district of Parry Sound is indeed northern Ontario.

I do want to comment, though, on a couple of the comments made by the member for Timiskaming with respect to commitments. I think everybody in this House knows that you cannot four-lane Highway 69 or Highway 11 in one year, two years or three years. All we ask for is a definite commitment—not a commitment to study, not a commitment to do engineering, but a commitment that those highways will be built within 10 or 15 years and that we are going to do 10 miles a year, 20 miles a year or whatever it is. We want the commitment and we want it now. No government in its right mind, present or succeeding, would every dare go back on that commitment. I do not know why that commitment cannot be made.

With respect to the Waubaushene portion—with all due respect to the member for Timiskaming—the engineering was done on that portion of the highway in the early 1980s. The construction was announced by Jimmy Snow in 1985, and it sat on hold until June 11, when an article appeared in the Midland newspaper. Some civil servant—Mr. Dawley, to be exact—from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications announced that “we are now going to get on with what we should have been doing two years ago.”

The same thing can be said of the Callander bypass. It sat there for two years, and no action was taken; now, when we think there might be an election, we are going to start paving the Callander bypass. The same can be said of the Parry Sound bypass, the environmental assessment for which was done three years ago. If there is a true commitment on the part of this government to four-lane the Parry Sound bypass, construction will start tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.

The Acting Speaker: Your time has expired.

Mr. Eves: Next week I would expect that cabinet will announce the inclusion of the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The time allotted for this ballot item has expired.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Miss Stephenson moved resolution 21:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that the council of Metropolitan Toronto called the Sheppard subway line the number one transit priority in the Metropolitan Toronto area, that over 6,000 people travel along the Sheppard-line corridor during peak periods every day, that the growing number of commuters are placing an increased burden on the present infrastructures, that the Network 2011 report was released and carefully studied ever since June 1986, that the costs of construction escalate dramatically with each passing year, and further recognizing that the council of Metropolitan Toronto has voted unanimously for immediate construction, the government of Ontario should allocate funding for construction of the Sheppard subway line on an immediate basis.

Miss Stephenson: It is perhaps appropriate and fitting on this occasion, which may in fact be my final act of participation in what passes for debate in this Legislature, that I have the opportunity to speak to the resolution which relates specifically to the needs and requirements

of the community in which I have lived for more than half a century.

Mr. Newman: You are not that old.

Miss Stephenson: I thank the member very much. Flattery will get him everywhere.

Perhaps it is essential that one have such a long sojourn in a community to really understand what has happened to the community and what the community really requires. When I moved to the township of North York in 1930, there were 7,000 people in the entire area. You were not born at that point, Mr. Speaker; that is unfortunate, because you missed a very interesting experience during 1927, 1928 and 1929. However, in 1930, North York had a total population of 7,000 people.

At the end of the Second World War, it was characterized as the fastest-growing community in North America, and it was; it went from 45,000 at that point to somewhat over 200,000 within a period of less than three years.

It is now the third-largest city in Canada, with a population of 560,000. During that time it has maintained, on the whole, a very reasonable developmental program. But that developmental program is certainly dependent upon and sometimes impeded by either the transportation program which is in place or that which is not in place or that which is not being instituted.

I am rising to propose an action that I think will improve significantly the current transportation situation in the city of North York and in Metropolitan Toronto and should help to prevent some future problems related to appropriate development in the city of North York and the transportation of citizens in Metropolitan Toronto. The action, of course, is the immediate undertaking of construction of the proposed Sheppard subway line.

It is perfectly obvious that I am not alone in my support of this venture, since the member for Oriole (Ms. Caplan) has brought at least two petitions at this point from citizens in her area of North York as well as in other areas of North York, and since the mayor has instituted a very active signature-seeking program in order to try to impress upon the provincial government that the people of the city of North York feel very strongly that the Sheppard subway line is a necessity to them.

Members will recall that a number of urban research initiatives have been undertaken over the past decade or so. One of the most recent was Network 2011. This study was completed in 1986, and it analysed the various compelling reasons for the improvement of transit activity

throughout Metropolitan Toronto and particularly the Sheppard subway line. It determined that indeed that subway line would be an appropriate response to the long-term travel needs of much of the northern part of Metropolitan Toronto.

As we all know, the northern part of Metropolitan Toronto has been growing at a rate that can only be classified as geometric progression. Rapid transit, while it has not always proved to be the bonanza or the panacea that its strong proponents feel it is, is in the minds of many experts, such as civil engineers and regional planners, one of the important solutions to appropriate development and the appropriate movement of people within a planning area.

Certainly, rapid transit has proved its success in Metropolitan Toronto. Its success has been of such magnitude that it has outgrown its capacity and is now providing some impedance to the expansion of people movement as a result of its lack of capacity to meet all the requirements of most of the people who want to use rapid transit. However, it is important that we understand that rapid transit, such as subways and light rail transit lines, is not the only answer to the transportation question.

I would like the honourable members in this House to understand that I am not proposing that the subway line along Sheppard be carried out to the exclusion of other forms of transportation which must be a part of the transportation planning mechanism in Metropolitan Toronto. It is impossible to consider the city of Toronto or Metropolitan Toronto itself without considering a balanced transit system. That transit system must include such mechanisms as the road system and the GO Transit system, which is essential to the movement of people as well. All the patterns of transit in Metropolitan Toronto need to be examined in a very comprehensive way in order to monitor and hopefully to meet the future needs of the citizens of this area adequately.

1110

Studies that have been done by demographers demonstrate that regional population and employed labour-force growth up until the year 2011—and that, of course, was the reason for the name of the study—will occur outside Metropolitan Toronto. The growth will not be within the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto but just beyond the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto. However, the employment growth in Metro itself has been projected at an increase of about 100,000 workers within the boundaries of the Metropolitan area in that period of time.

The majority of new trips for those who are travelling in or out to their employment will originate outside Metropolitan Toronto, and there is expected to be a very considerable increase in interregional commuting. Metro's revised regional population and employment projections will exaggerate this trend, I think, and will definitely emphasize the need for better, expanded, balanced transportation systems.

Consider what has happened over the period between 1975 and 1985. Inbound rush-hour trips at the Metro boundary cordon—that is, at the boundary of Metropolitan Toronto—increased by 90 per cent during that decade. That is to be compared with an increase of 10 per cent in inbound trips at the central-area cordon, which is the area at the north end of the city of Toronto itself.

Most of the suburban-trip increase was, unhappily—or happily for the automobile manufacturers—by way of automobile. Unhappily, our road structure is not built to accommodate all of that increase. However, the slower growth of Metro's employed labour force is probably going to ensure that we do not need quite as much expansion in the road system in the inner part of the city but that we will probably need a tremendous amount of expansion in the interregional-commuting transportation system, be that by subway or by road.

Many of these trips are certainly going to be very difficult to serve with the current Toronto Transit Commission pattern of service. The North York metropolitan subcentre itself is projected to require increases of about 35,000 employees by the year 2011. In North York's particular case, the road capacity itself may prove to be the greatest inhibition to future growth. Transit access may not be the factor which inhibits future growth in North York, but the Sheppard subway, if completed, certainly would support the development of the major metropolitan subcentres in North York and Scarborough. I think all of us would have to consider that serious and important.

The subway itself would most certainly relieve the very heavily used Sheppard and Finch bus routes. Any of the members of this House who have to travel east-west on Finch Avenue or Sheppard Avenue during rush-hour will recognize that at this point it is almost as bad as travelling west on Highway 403 at 5:30 in the afternoon and probably just about the same as travelling on the Queen Elizabeth Way at almost any time of the day.

The subway, which would free a good deal of that road capacity, would improve the situation mightily. The subway would provide a connection between the three other rapid transit lines—Spadina, Yonge and the Scarborough RT—which would improve rapid transit access for a great number of Metro residents. The fact that it would intercept the south feeder bus routes and the Richmond Hill GO line from the very rapidly growing region of York would provide much wider access to the larger numbers of citizens who are moving to that part of Ontario just outside the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto.

I think the experts would echo the statement that the Sheppard line is needed immediately because traffic volumes are now at capacity levels. I think we should point out that the need for the Sheppard line is based on current development and current employment figures, not even projected figures. Right now, the capacity levels have been reached, and the citizens of North York and those who live beyond North York who would use such a service do require this line at this time.

The line will ease crowded buses, the long waits to board buses at the Sheppard and Finch stations and the general disruption to existing auto traffic along Sheppard Avenue and Finch Avenue. Nearly 100,000 cars cross the Scarborough-North York boundary every day on Sheppard Avenue and Finch Avenue, which means that more people travel on these two streets in Metropolitan Toronto than live in the outlying municipalities of Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Pickering. It is essential that we add that the bus routes connecting to the Yonge subway at Sheppard and Finch stations are the two most heavily travelled in Metropolitan Toronto, with buses carrying 6,000 passengers per hour during peak periods.

The Sheppard subway line will help to significantly relieve congestion in Metro's busiest residential and employment areas, the Don Mills corridor, Consumers Road, Birchmount-Sheppard and Kennedy-Sheppard. Furthermore, employment levels along Sheppard Avenue alone are expected to grow by more than two and a half times by the year 2011. Sheppard Avenue is a key employment area in Metro, with a 25 per cent increase of all of Metro's employment projected to occur in that area during the next several years.

Obviously, the subway line would serve not only the residents who are moving to other parts but also residents in other parts of Metro who are

moving to their employment along the Sheppard line. It is impossible to project if the increased load of commuters in this area could be handled by means of improvements only to the road system. There is no doubt that improvements to the road system are necessary, but they will not be adequate to meet the needs of the citizens of North York or the citizens of Metropolitan Toronto, who will be increasingly moving into North York for their employment.

In the words of the accelerated rapid transit study report of 1981:

"The problem is not the promotion of increased ridership on the TTC"—the problem of rapid transit—"it is rather the constraints upon the system which provide impedance to an increased ridership because it does not allow the system to handle increased ridership."

I think it is the responsibility of this Legislature to act decisively and effectively on behalf of the travel needs of the citizens of North York and Metropolitan Toronto. That responsibility has parameters which include serious considerations, not just for the questions of how best to handle the volume of commuter traffic but for the broader related questions of growth and development, which to a very large measure provide the foundation for the quality of life within this province and within Canada, and the quality of transportation provides the foundation for that growth and development.

I think we are compelled to act immediately on the matter of the Sheppard subway line by the factual argument of the conclusions drawn from informed analysis of this issue as well as the concerted voice of the citizens of the city of North York who, I think, have given unanimous approval to this project. They understand their travel needs and problems. I am sure the member for Oriole will echo that remark.

I would request that the government of the day manifest its determination to move swiftly in the prescribed direction and provide the funds that are necessary to begin this project immediately.

To delay any further will be interpreted by the citizens of Metropolitan Toronto as the demonstration of a lack of will by the government to develop authoritatively such an issue of importance, upon which depends a good deal of the economic vitality of this province and this country.

To delay any further would be to ensure that the cost for construction will rise absolutely astronomically, and the human costs will increase as well. To delay is most certainly a demonstration of lack of leadership at a crucial

moment in this metropolitan area's driving move forward as it really begins to develop as a truly great urban centre. We have been told this by many of our visitors. Let us make sure that it remains a truly great urban centre by developing appropriately.

There is much more to lose by delaying than there is to gain by delaying, and all that is left really to do now is for the government to remove the last barrier which is blocking the inevitable of the future taking place. I would call upon the government to begin to remove that blockade immediately. Provide the funds for the Sheppard subway line right now.

1120

The Deputy Speaker: Does the member wish to reserve the last three minutes and 10 seconds?

Miss Stephenson: For response.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Warner: It is not a usual thing for me to agree with the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) on a subject. In fact, I am rather hard-pressed to think of the last time when the two of us did reach a common agreement on a topic; but, none the less, this happens to be an occasion where I agree and completely endorse the resolution that she has brought forward.

I listened attentively to a very thoughtful presentation, and she is to be commended for the presentation she has made. I guess what makes me a little bit sad with this morning is that having to move this resolution speaks to the continuation of our ad hoc approach to the development of transportation in Metropolitan Toronto and indeed throughout much of the region of southern Ontario.

Good, thoughtful, long-range planning has been absent for a long time. In fact, I would suggest that we really have not done any serious, thoughtful, long-range planning in this province with respect to public transit. We have never done that. It was a fault of the former government and, unfortunately, remains a fault with the new government.

Somehow, especially over the last 50 years, many people have found it perhaps convenient to see public transit in opposition to the development of highways and arterial roads, that somehow it was one or the other.

Many of us will recall—certainly the member for York Mills will recall—some of the really bizarre plans that were brought forward to have the city criss-crossed by expressways. She may recall the idea that was put forward to have an expressway that went east-west along either St.

Clair or Bloor, and some really strange and bizarre ideas of simply not just putting expressways around the periphery of Toronto but in fact having them come through the city—and that it was either this or public transit.

Somehow, there was never the notion that we could integrate the use of public transit with the use of arterial roads or expressways. Never, for example, was there the notion a long time ago that we could have an expanded expressway area that would accommodate some public transit, a rail line or an express lane for buses, taxis and so on. This was just something that was not considered.

As we go through the current debate about Sheppard, the question is now raised, "Will it be Sheppard or Eglinton?" I suggest we should not be approaching the question on an either/or basis. Surely to goodness, by now we appreciate, as they have appreciated for many decades in London, England, and in Paris, France, that a good subway system should be the base of an excellent transit system in a large urban centre and that both the Sheppard line and the Eglinton line are important, as indeed other sections of subway lines will be important, not just in the next 10 years but for many decades to come.

We missed the chance, I respectfully suggest, back in the 1920s and 1930s to have developed a good subway system in this city. We knew the technology. We understood that we could develop a subway system and yet we failed to grasp that opportunity and develop it. What makes me a little sad as well is that we will debate and at some point—unless everybody over there has lost his or her marbles—we will approve the Sheppard line. That is very nice.

I know in my community of Scarborough, the number one complaint I get from senior citizens is that they have difficulty travelling within Scarborough, from one place to another inside Scarborough. In a city of 500,000 people, half a million people, we have seniors whose transits needs within the city of Scarborough are not being met. At times I get so totally frustrated to think that we have the technology, the money, the intelligence, we know what needs to be done and yet we cannot do it; we fail to do it.

I support the resolution brought forward by the member. A lot of her comments with respect to the growth of the city are absolutely correct, but we can approve the Sheppard line and maybe through pressure the government will agree to build the line. Yet, a lot of problems will remain unanswered. For example, are we content to allow the sprawl of Metro Toronto through the

surrounding areas, such as Markham, Durham, Pickering, Peel and York? Is that what we want?

We have forgotten about the greenbelts. The greenbelts are gone. The concept of having greenbelts so that there was an orderly development within Metropolitan Toronto and an equally orderly development in outlying areas and that we could protect our environment to a certain extent and try to civilize our urban development—that is gone. Greenbelts are gone and we are looking at continuous urban sprawl.

Transit will be part of that, because as we allow that continuous urban sprawl then we have a transit need that needs to be met. Perhaps it involves merging GO Transit with the Toronto Transit Commission. I suggest at some point that has to happen, but as we develop that, what we will do is develop something that is similar to what we have seen in New York and down that eastern seaboard: continuous urban sprawl. I suggest that does not do us any good.

I get terribly frustrated because I know that the transit needs are not being met. I know that still there are many politicians who see public transit as being in opposition to highway construction and public transit will take a back seat. Metro council was not prepared to adopt a very modest proposal that the buses be given privilege on the roads, that the buses be given the right of way to pull out of the little turn-ins at the bus stops, that they be given the right of way to go back out into traffic. Metro council was given that opportunity by the former government and turned it down. We still have some backward-thinking politicians, both here in Queen's Park and on Metro council as well.

Unless we are prepared to meet the challenges of public transit, then I suggest, perhaps in a slightly different fashion, but as the member for York Mills has said, this city runs the risk of losing the good status it has achieved. As much as members from Metro Toronto are often put down for standing up for their city, I do not think there is any question that this is a good city. It is a darned good city and it has gained a good status, both within our country and within the world, but if we do not develop our public transit properly and if we do not take the initiative to ensure that those commuters who are living outside of Metropolitan Toronto are able to get in and out of the city, if we do not do those things, then I think we run the risk of creating a mess. That would be a real shame.

In conclusion, I am pleased to support the member's resolution, but I suggest, and I suggest very strongly to this government, that it is

engaged in an ad hoc approach that has not served us well, an ad hoc approach that has been in this province for decades and remains. The member for Oriole, give her credit, will fight for this line, but she is part of a government that has no concept of orderly planning of a transit system for Metropolitan Toronto.

1130

Ms. Caplan: I am pleased to enter the debate today with my colleague the member for York Mills and my colleague the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner). I would like to refer to some of the things they have said. I think it will come as a surprise to no one when I say how delighted I am that we have this resolution before us. I had been quite concerned because of the silence from the opposition benches on this particular issue.

The only time there was no silence was when, at the very first opportunity following the budget, I rose to ask a very important question which was on the minds of my constituents and the people of North York, and that was to the minister and to the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon): Was it either/or? Was the announcement of Highway 407 the end of the planning for the Sheppard line? Did one preclude the other? That was the only time when, in fact, there was a lot of noise in this House and I felt that, in some way, there was some suggestion that the question should not be asked.

So I am delighted that we have unanimous support, it would seem, from both opposition parties. The member for York Mills and I go back a long time. I remember her appearance when I was a newly-elected member of North York council. It was 1978, and shortly thereafter, as a member of the planning board, she appeared before that not-so-august body and we had a little debate over some planning issues and appropriate development in downtown North York. As she speaks about her half century, I want to say I have spent the last 15 years—not quite a half a century—in the city of North York. I was there when it became a city. I sometimes feel as if I have been there half a century, or perhaps appear as if I have been there half a century.

I believe the very salient point made by the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere is the one that I would like to take a few minutes to address, because most of the facts and the points in support of this proposal have been laid very well before us by the member for York Mills.

That has been the absence of long-range planning. One of the earliest positions that I took as a newly elected member of North York council was chairman of the development and economic

growth committee. It was during my time as chairman that we requested the subway station which was just opened, the Park Home and Yonge subway station. That had been something that seemed such a natural. Why was this not done? Why was this not planned?

At the same time, I recommended that we have an ongoing and continual rapid transit subcommittee in North York because, as we changed our committee membership each year, we lost that continuum of planning, of knowledge among council members. In fact, I became familiar with terms like "Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority, Accelerated Rapid Transit Study, GO advanced light rail transit, articulated rapid transit," all of the words of transportation planning. The end result, just after my departure from North York council, was in fact Network 2011, a report that I was very, very familiar with.

The part I was most distressed about was that I found there had been no comprehensive planning or discussion among the Toronto Transit Commission, Metropolitan Toronto, North York transportation department, Scarborough transportation department and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. They had been looking at planning for Metropolitan Toronto, for North York, for Scarborough, but they had not been looking at the greater Toronto area, they had not been looking at the greater needs and doing long-range planning.

Let me say very clearly and strongly, I was disappointed that we did not have an announcement of funding in the budget. The minister explained to me very clearly that it is the policy of this government that we have that kind of comprehensive long-range planning, that we not make the kinds of ad hoc decisions that have been noted in the past.

When the announcement of \$2.75 million was made for the evaluation and the studies to allow the Sheppard line to continue in the planning process, I was heartened. I really felt we were moving along. I have had assurance from the minister that the approval of Highway 407 did not preclude the Sheppard line.

I think the needs are clear for the people of my riding, the people of York Mills, the people of the new Willowdale riding, the people of Scarborough, the people not only in North York but those throughout north-central Metropolitan Toronto, those north of North York in the new planning regions, the region of York, the region of Durham, the region of Peel.

I was just discussing this with my colleague from the west end of North York, the member for

Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli). He was saying to me that it takes him longer to travel inward and across the city than it does his colleague the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan), who is that much further, or his colleagues coming the other way. So we have to look at a total transportation plan.

On this point, I would like to echo the words we have heard this morning and talk about a balance. It is not either-or roads or traffic, highways or traffic. I think the minister and the Treasurer are very aware. I believe this process, which has been going on since 1981 looking at Metropolitan Toronto's transit needs, was quite confusing. There was another process going on at the same time and that was the GO advanced light rail transit study for the interurban lines that the member for York Mills referred to.

What I found, because of my involvement, was that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications was looking at the GO-ALRT lines while Metropolitan Toronto and the Toronto Transit Commission were looking at the needs of Metropolitan Toronto and North York. There was a lot of confusion among the public. Now is the time to stop that confusion, to look at a comprehensive, balanced plan for future transportation needs that will allow for the appropriate development of the Scarborough Town Centre, the North York Town Centre, the downtown North York that I am so proud of and that I had some part in seeing become a reality.

I believe the Sheppard line is needed not only for North York but for all of greater Metropolitan Toronto. I think the study that is under way now within the ministry, looking at the needs of the greater Metropolitan Toronto area, will come to that conclusion. It is important this be done so that we can end the kind of ad hocery the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere referred to.

I believe this resolution should be supported unanimously in this House. It speaks to an immediate start. I guess the word "immediate" is the one we are all going to look at and say, "What exactly does that mean?" I think immediately upon having that kind of comprehensive planning done and the commitment to the long-term needs of the people, not only of North York and Metropolitan Toronto but of the greater Metropolitan Toronto area, looking at all those transportation needs, then we must see the ground-breaking.

1140

One of the points that was made already that I would like to reiterate, because I think it is most important, is that more people cross that bounda-

ry between North York and Scarborough every day than live in the new, fastest-emerging communities to the north, the east and the west. We are looking at 25 per cent of the employment opportunities within Metropolitan Toronto and this region occurring in North York and Scarborough. The link between the two is vital. I think it is important that the people not take for granted that this planning is occurring without their participation. They must participate by petition and by discussion with their members.

I have been an advocate of this line from the time that the decision was made at the Metropolitan Toronto council level. I have raised it at every opportunity in this House. I have presented petitions on behalf of the people. This morning, perhaps as a token of their appreciation, I would like to take the last four seconds to present to the member for York Mills a T-shirt saying "Sheppard Subway Line 'I Need it Now'" and to ask for unanimous support of the resolution.

Mr. McFadden: I am rising, as have the other members who have spoken so far this morning, in support of the resolution of the member for York Mills.

I think the way to describe transportation in Metropolitan Toronto is really one word, and that is "congestion." We have congestion right across Toronto on our streets. There was a time when congestion was limited to traffic downtown or during rush hours. Today, we have traffic congestion from one end of Metro to the other, not just at rush hours but throughout the day, to the point where it is unpleasant for many drivers even to try to cope with the type of traffic congestion they face in street after street, on artery after artery, from Scarborough right across to Etobicoke.

To add to this, we have congestion in our parking lots everywhere. Try to find parking in downtown Toronto on an average work day. Any of the parking you do find, if you can find any, is expensive. In fact, there are a couple of lots downtown where at times you almost have to mortgage your car to get out with the kind of prices that are being charged.

We also have congestion, though, throughout our public transit system. I think we have reached a point where our subway system today is overloaded and past the saturation point. I suggest that the congestion in public transit throughout Metro, at rush hour at least, has reached the point of being inhuman. "Congestion" is very clearly, in my view, a word that describes transportation virtually everywhere in the major travelled arteries of this city.

It is safe to say, though, that this is the result of the success that Toronto has enjoyed since the Second World War. You could say that Toronto is a victim of its own success. If we take a look at the period since the Second World War, I think we will see through that whole period one of the most exciting periods of growth of any city anywhere in the world. Toronto has moved, over the past several decades, from being a moderately successful regional city to being a city which today is well known worldwide as a financial and commercial centre.

We can take a good deal of pride in the fact that Toronto has a remarkably low level of unemployment relative to other areas of Canada. One of the key reasons for that has been the success of this city in developing into a financial and commercial centre. Of course, there have been other areas of strength in the city besides those particular sectors, obviously in the area of education and other services, but the diversification of the Toronto economy into a whole broad area of concerns and activities has brought tremendous strength to the city.

Toronto has also become a leading theatre and cultural centre which is well regarded worldwide. Toronto is the home of some of the greatest teams in sport. Today we are fortunate to have in Toronto the finest baseball team in professional baseball, the Toronto Blue Jays. I know there are odd members of this House, and I describe them as odd, who actually cheer for other teams besides the Blue Jays, but even they have to admit today that the Blue Jays are the finest team in baseball.

Toronto, of course, is the home of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Now the Maple Leafs have gone through some troubling years in recent times. They have historically been one of the finest teams, but as a sports fan, I am well aware of the fact that the Leafs are right in the middle of another one of their rebuilding programs. I am confident that this current rebuilding program, led by Wendel Clark, will lead the Leafs to a Stanley Cup, which will create additional congestion in downtown Toronto.

Who can forget that tonight the Toronto Argonauts begin another fine season in the Canadian Football League hosting a surprise guest, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers? Again, that is another fine team that attracts people in from across Ontario and different parts of Canada and leads to further congestion.

One of the things, though, that has characterized Toronto now for many years is that it has become a magnet, attracting people from outside

of the Toronto area, from across Ontario, from across Canada and different parts of the world. This is something that both Toronto residents and Ontarians can be proud of, but the kind of congestion that this has created is something that has to be dealt with on an urgent basis.

The current system of public transportation was, in effect, designed about 35 years ago with the decision of the city and the province to go ahead with the construction of the Yonge Street subway. From the 1950s on, we have just had further elaborations in the area of public transportation. We have had the construction of the University line, then the completion of the Bloor line and the construction of the light rail transit line in Scarborough.

Today, though, we very clearly need some major new initiatives in the area of public transportation. Leadership and support for this must come from the province now, as in the past, if Toronto is to remain an attractive city to visit, to work in and to live in. The Network 2011 report set out what I would suggest is a very practical and well-considered strategy for the improvement of rapid transit in Toronto over the next 25 to 30 years.

As the member for York Mills and other members have mentioned this morning, one of the strengths of Toronto is that a conscious decision was made not to rely on the automobile as the sole reliable means of transportation. That was the mistake that one city after another made in the United States. We have developed in this city a balanced system involving both the private automobile, surface transportation and mass subway transportation, but it is clear today that the rapid transit system we have in place in Toronto must be expanded on an urgent basis and improved.

Construction should start immediately on the Sheppard line as a first priority in the improvement of rapid transit in the city. This line is clearly needed to service the needs of the people in North York and the expanding business community in that city. More than that, we must also move on an urgent basis when that construction project is completed to construct a downtown relief line and other improvements to relieve the very severe pressure on the Yonge-University line.

1150

Anybody who has travelled on the University-Yonge line in the last year or so would have to agree with me that the Yonge line has reached the breaking point. In fact, one of life's most unpleasant experiences is to ride on the Yonge

Street line on a day like today when the temperature is 25 or 30 degrees. It is well past the point of saturation. I suggest that we have a situation now on the Yonge line where it has gone past the point of even being saturated; it is supersaturated.

I also suggest that the situation on the trains on both the Yonge line and the Bloor line is unhealthy and unsafe for elderly people and for children. They can virtually be trampled at rush hour trying to get on and off the subway trains. Something has to be done to relieve that problem as well, on an urgent basis.

Given the fact that thousands of people use public transit every day in Toronto in cramped and often unpleasant circumstances, the province should move immediately to allocate the required funding to start construction on the Sheppard subway line as an important, but only a first, step in improving rapid transit across Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Oshawa for up to seven minutes.

Mr. Breaugh: I want to join briefly in this debate because it hits on a point that is becoming more and more important to people in my area. I want to say that I support the resolution. I would be afraid to do otherwise because the sponsor of the resolution is well known for her tenacity.

It is apparent, if one drove in as I did today, that the road system in Metropolitan Toronto is past its saturation point. It does not matter which road you choose to take. You will find that the Red Brigade has totally taken over Metro works. They have completely shut down the transportation system on the ground in Metropolitan Toronto. There is not a motorist out there who does not know that. If they do not know it yet, on their way home tonight, if they just pause to look around, they will understand that the reason they are sitting still in traffic for long periods of time is that the road system cannot handle any more capacity.

The argument about whether there ought to be an expansion, as many American cities had, of the road transportation system, has been resolved in Metropolitan Toronto. We are not opting for a system of huge expressways that take apart a major urban centre and cause a raft of other problems. We have begun to focus on what I believe is the correct option, and that is rapid transit systems of different types that really have to be integrated.

Frankly, my concern is not that there is an absence of planning. When I sat on a regional council in Durham, we were aware there of many

of the transportation plans of a long-range nature that have been done in and around Metro. As provincial politicians, we are or we should be very sensitive to the fact that there are people in Ontario who want to get a concession road paved this summer, and that is not going to happen because somebody said there is no money.

When you talk about transportation plans in Metropolitan Toronto, particularly rapid transit plans, you are talking about really large amounts of money. But the fact remains that we do not have any options left in this regard. There needs to be established a transportation system around Metro—that would be the consensus I see—to address this need to move huge numbers of people in and out of the city for a variety of reasons.

In my area, the hot potato these days is that this government is not much better than the previous government at actually carrying out the plans. It is obvious that we need to provide GO Transit into the region of Durham. It is so obvious that it is already there to Pickering. It is so obvious that they are already constructing it to Whitby; but it is also obvious that it needs to be extended further into Oshawa and to service Newcastle. It is equally obvious that the same GO Transit needs to go west. It needs to go into Hamilton.

Those are our priorities, and that is why the construction is under way. It needs to be done now, frankly, because the people are there now. This is not a theoretical argument any more. It used to be, and sometimes I wish it still was planning theories that we are talking about, but we are talking about something which is almost of emergency status. We need to develop things like the Sheppard line if we are ever to do anything to relieve Highway 401.

I do not believe there is a member here who would argue, even bother to argue, that we can further expand the Highway 401 complex. The only one that I have heard is the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) who said we ought to put up a second tier. That is the only place that I can see that you could go. You cannot go any farther. My problem is that the system we now have, ground transportation in particular, is beginning to crumble under its own weight. If we do not continue to do proper maintenance, that one is going to be in dire straits for a long period of time. We are well aware this summer that there is a problem when you try to do that repair work.

I am happy to support this resolution. I wish it were part of a somewhat broader resolution, because it will address one of our needs. If the member is proposing that this is the starting point

for a transportation system which moves people almost in a ring around Metropolitan Toronto, more power to her, because those are the kinds of things that need to be done. I did hear her say earlier that this is meant to be a system that will fall in place eventually to link up rapid transit systems going through Scarborough and through the west end of the city so you will have the opportunity to use rapid transit all over Metropolitan Toronto.

As an alternative, you can come to Oshawa and we will build you the pickup trucks and everybody can hop into the back and whip around the Gardiner Expressway and do all of that; but short of that one, I do not know of a system that is going to work unless you go to some rapid transit system. It does not have to be subway; it could be light rail transit. There are some options that can be expressed there, but the need is apparent now, almost of an emergency nature.

In Metro and around Metro we are caught with this: the theoretical move to plan for the regions around Metro happened in the 1970s, and in those days on those councils we all proceeded to say: "This is what the province wants; it wants us to accept housing in large numbers." We did that; we approved those development plans; we went through official plan amendments; we did zoning bylaws.

Then, of course, because of the way we do housing in Ontario, we turned that over to the private sector, because it would be the one to actually construct the housing, and we lost control of when the housing would be built, the housing being built according to the market demands for it. The demand is there now. The problem is that all that massive housing—if you go north, east or west, you will see housing being built on a scale we have never seen before in Ontario, 1,500 and 2,000 units at a time.

I believe this mode of transportation has to be addressed by the government right now. It has to be part of a package needed right now. It means extending GO Transit to Oshawa and Hamilton. It means putting in place now the Sheppard line. It means putting in place other lines.

We know there are some transportation options that still have to be looked at and examined. We know it is attractive to say those big GM diesels can do the job cheaper than anything else, but the truth is that if we want to move people on the scale we are talking about here, we need a rapid transit system, one that we have in part, one that we need in whole, or this community will experience just exactly what happened on the Don Valley Parkway this

morning. It is going to come to a roaring and obnoxious dead halt.

Mr. Speaker: The member for York Mills has three minutes either to wind up or wind down the debate.

Miss Stephenson: I am delighted to know I do not have to wind the debate up, because it would appear that all three parties are in support of the resolution.

I would like to remind the member for Oriole that our association goes back longer than her freshman year as alderman. It goes back to 1977 when she was the campaign chairman for her husband who was my Liberal opponent in the 1977 provincial election.

Mr. Warner: You crushed him, right?

Miss Stephenson: No, I did not crush him. He sort of crushed himself at that point. He did not listen to his wife; that was what was wrong, as usual.

Over the past decade, many studies have been carried out. The studies are good solid work, but they need to be integrated. That process was begun in 1983, the integration of the GO advanced light rail transit study with the Metropolitan Toronto study, in order that we could develop an appropriate, balanced transportation system, not only within Metropolitan Toronto but also for the larger area of Metropolitan Toronto and its environs.

Were I the Treasurer at this point with a windfall of \$8 billion, one of the first things I would be doing is making sure that some of that study, which has been done and clarified, was being initiated right now, because the economic future of this province, whether we like it or not and whether anybody outside of Toronto likes it or not, depends very heavily on what happens to

the Metropolitan area of Toronto. A good deal of the future of Canada depends on what happens here as well.

It is essential that this area be maintained as the vital financial-industrial-commercial centre that it is. We are not going to be able to do it if we cannot invite people to come and live here because they cannot get around the area to get to the services that are provided or to get to their employment. That is the kind of thing that is likely to happen if we do not proceed.

I could not agree more with the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere and the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) that we must develop an integrated program and we must begin on several fronts. But, for goodness' sake, let us not hold back right at the present time. If we cannot begin on all fronts at once, at least let us begin Highway 407, the extension of GO, which is absolutely essential, and the Sheppard subway line immediately, and then proceed with the other components that are absolutely essential to the future of this province and the future of this country.

The needs of the people must be met and the needs of our economic development depend heavily on the needs of the people.

RIDING OF PARRY SOUND

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Eves has moved resolution 20.

Motion agreed to.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Speaker: Miss Stephenson has moved resolution 21.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12 noon.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

Mr. Eves: For some time now, Thomas and Gail Dowswell of Parry Sound have been trying without success to convince the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) that his provisions for disabled people are both inadequate and unfair.

Mrs. Dowswell is unable to work due to severe epilepsy and receives a disability pension from the ministry; however, because her husband is working, Mrs. Dowswell's pension is reduced. Mr. Dowswell makes the grand sum of \$10,000 a year. The Dowswell family can hardly make ends meet as it is and the ministry is penalizing the Dowswells because Mr. Dowswell is earning a wage that is below the poverty line, even for single people in Ontario.

The minister seems to think that \$10,000 a year is plenty to live on, which is rather hypocritical because the difference between the salary of his executive assistant now and my executive assistant when I was the minister is about \$10,000 a year.

In response to the latest letter to the minister on the matter, which I received four months after the request was made, the minister's answer to the Dowswell's situation is that Mr. Dowswell is free to quit his job if Mrs. Dowswell wants her benefits reinstated. Because she is disabled, she cannot exercise the option to go out and work and augment her family's income. Mr. Dowswell could sit back and live off the government, but he believes in the work ethic. The government's track record with respect to the disabled is indeed a sad story. Hardworking people such as the Dowswells are trying to get ahead and deserve better.

Perhaps the minister could help these people out by raising those income levels.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY
CROWN EMPLOYEES

Mr. Philip: On May 28, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) on behalf of the Liberal Party, and the member for York South (Mr. Rae) on behalf of the New Democratic Party, signed an accord which stated, "Redefinition and broadening of the rights of public service workers to participation in political activity." On

January 13, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) stated: "The government undertakes to deal promptly with the issue of political activity by crown employees as soon as the law reform commission report is received."

The summary by the Liberal government in its review of the 1985-86 session stated: "The government expects to give the commission's report high priority on its legislative program."

On introducing that report on July 10, 1986, it stated: "The government expects to give the commission's report, for which I congratulate it once again, high priority in our legislative program."

The government has signed an accord in which it promised political rights to public servants. We have a report with very concrete and specific recommendations on how that is done. It is fairly obvious on this date that this government cannot be trusted in its promise to its own public servants, in its contract that it signed with the New Democratic Party, or indeed in the promises the minister has made in this House.

MULTICULTURALISM

Mr. Callahan: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise today to commend my colleague the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) on the fine work that she and her ministry have done in developing the government-wide multiculturalism strategy.

As a representative of the riding of Brampton, which has a wide cultural diversity, I am keenly aware of the concerns many members of the multicultural communities have regarding access to services and access to the many opportunities this province has to offer to its citizens.

These concerns go far beyond the confines of any one ministry's responsibility; that is to say, multiculturalism is not just song and dance but the very fibre of all aspects of life throughout this province and my riding. It has just as much relevance in the fields of health, social services, education, labour, human resources, management, etc.

As for the celebration of our differences in our heritage, multiculturalism means all of us, not just ethnics. We have a culture. We all have our own traditions and histories, but let us celebrate them together.

I would like to take this opportunity for the last time to invite all the members of the Legislature, as well as those who may be viewing, to our very

excellent celebration in the city of Brampton, Carabram, which will be opening officially on June 30 and will continue thereafter with the sights, sounds and tastes of our multicultural community on July 3, 4 and 5.

PROPOSAL FOR WATERWAY

Mr. Runciman: Before the House adjourns, hopefully today, I want to place on the record my concerns and the concerns of many of my constituents in respect to the Ministry of Natural Resources' intention to designate the waterway between Otter and Charleston lakes as the James Auld Provincial Waterway Park.

The proposed designation of this waterway as a park has raised valid concerns, as residents and users perceive a threat to established uses and traditional occupations of those living along the waterway. I share these concerns and have advised the Ministry of Natural Resources to abandon its plans to implement a park designation and, instead, designate the waterway as the James Auld Waterway Trail.

In response to mounting criticism, the ministry has opted to establish a citizens' advisory committee and, although its terms of reference are open to interpretation, the minister has personally assured me that the committee will consider the need and desirability of the park designation.

On the basis of that commitment, I have urged interested groups and individuals, despite their reservations, to participate in the committee process. I would urge the minister to ensure that the committee's first order of business be the park designation question. To do otherwise would very quickly bring into question the credibility of the process and discourage complete citizen participation.

IRRADIATION OF FOOD

Mrs. Grier: It is high time the people of Ontario knew where the provincial government stands on the question of food irradiation.

On May 14, a federal standing committee on consumer and corporate affairs released a comprehensive report on this nuclear technology for the preservation of food. This report was endorsed by all three federal parties. Its major finding was that there is currently not enough evidence to say that irradiated food is safe for human consumption.

The federal committee did not support the changes to regulations under the Food and Drugs Act proposed by the Department of National Health and Welfare. These draft regulations

would allow companies to market irradiated food without having to prove it is safe.

Federal ministries have another three months in which to respond to the parliamentary report. I think it is essential that Ontario ministries respond also. I urge the ministers of Health (Mr. Elston), Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) and Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) to make public their positions on food irradiation. I hope all three ministries will support the position of the parliamentary committee.

It is shocking to think the federal government would go ahead and approve food irradiation when its safety is still so much in question, but this could happen: tremendous pressure is being put on the federal government by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and other vested interests.

Irradiation could change the Ontario food supply in a dramatic way. It is too important a provincial issue for the decision about its introduction across Canada to be left to Ottawa. It is premature to approve regulations allowing food irradiation while the safety of the irradiated food is so much in doubt.

INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH AND FARM MACHINERY SHOW

Mr. McKessock: A couple of weeks ago I wrote to all members of the Legislature inviting them to the international ploughing match this fall in Grey county. If members have not responded to that letter, they should please do so immediately so we can send them meal tickets for the opening day and also have a sign made up for them to participate in the MP and MPP ploughing competition.

I also want to ask the Premier (Mr. Peterson) not to have the election in the week of September 15 to 19, because all the people in Ontario are going to be in Grey county for that week.

1340

Besides inviting the members, I want to make this an open invitation to everybody in Ontario to attend the international ploughing match this fall, September 15 to 19. This is where the urban and rural people come together for a week of fun and education. Grey county is happy to play host to all those in Ontario this fall. One and all, come out to Grey county, near Meaford, this fall to the international ploughing match.

FISHING LICENCE REVENUES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I rise with a great deal of sadness because I feel I must chastise the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). In

January 1987 the minister imposed a sport fishing licence on the residents of Ontario, the first sport fishing licence in the history of our province. My colleagues in the Progressive Conservative Party supported that initiative with the explicit understanding from the minister that all funds generated by this fishing licence would be used to improve sport fishing in this province and that the minister would set up a fisheries advisory council to ensure that happens.

The minister has not honoured his commitment to the members of this assembly or to the anglers of our province. He has failed to set up the fisheries advisory council, and it is my understanding that he has already allocated more than half of the projected revenue from this tax for expenditures of his ministry that should have been paid out of general revenue. This is completely unacceptable, and I call on the minister to honour his commitment and spend 100 per cent of the licence fees for sport fishing.

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: On a number of occasions in this Legislature over the past six months, members of this party, myself included, have repeatedly asked the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) to produce the Biddell report with respect to Wyda Systems and Graham Software. We have been told by the Premier and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology on a number of occasions—including, I may add, in writing; a letter dated June 15 to the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman), chairman of the standing committee on public accounts, signed by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology—that the report had not been completed or that it did not exist.

My point of privilege is this: this morning in the public accounts committee, we were advised that not only did Mr. Biddell's report on Wyda and Graham Software and IDEA Corp. exist, it had been given to the minister on February 11, 1987, that he had kept it and that Mr. Biddell saw no reason for it not being produced and made public.

Clearly, what the minister said and what was really going on are completely at variance. This minister and the Premier said something to us, as members of this House, that was not true. I call on them both to resign or else to explain their actions to this House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I listened very carefully to the member. He rose on a point of privilege. I cannot see in any way where any member's privilege has been breached. He stated that on many occasions he had questioned different ministers on matters. There are certain aspects of the standing orders which would allow the member to take further action on receiving further information. It is not a point of privilege.

Statements by the ministry.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of privilege, if I may—

Mr. Speaker: On the same point? I actually ruled it was not a point of privilege. I may have been too quick, but I ruled it was not a point of privilege.

Mr. Gillies: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I ask you, as Speaker, what remedy we have in this House when both the Premier and the minister have so clearly misrepresented this situation in writing and verbally to this House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: What remedy do we have, through you as Speaker, to ensure that we are given factual information by this government and are not so clearly misled as in this case?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I ask the honourable member to withdraw the words "misrepresented" and "misled." Will you withdraw?

Mr. Gillies: I will withdraw "misled," Mr. Speaker, but I assure you and all members of this House that what these two members have told the chamber is 100 miles from the truth.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member withdraw the word "misrepresented"?

Mr. Gillies: I withdrew it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I understood you withdrew "misled." Do you want to withdraw both?

Mr. Gillies: I withdraw "misled" and "misrepresented" and I leave on the record that what they have said is 100 miles from the truth.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am pleased to be able to report to the House that today the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously affirmed the majority decision of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, which in turn affirmed the constitutionality of Bill 30. The constitutionality of full funding for separate schools and its requirement as part of the

Confederation pact is thus established by a unanimous decision of our highest court.

Honourable members will recognize that both Ontario and Quebec entered into Confederation on the condition that the educational rights of the religious minorities in those provinces were protected. This was one of the cornerstones of Confederation, a condition precedent for the formation of Canada in 1867. Indeed, Sir Charles Tupper, a Father of Confederation, speaking in the House of Commons in 1896, described the Confederation bargain in precisely that way, noting that without the education guarantees contained in section 93 of the British North America Act "the provinces would have been unable to obtain any confederation whatever."

It appears from their reasons for judgement that a unanimous Supreme Court of Canada has reaffirmed this historic bargain. The court has concluded that the Confederation compromise of 1867, which took account of the rights of minorities, is not displaced or modified by the Constitution Act of 1982.

As well, a majority of the members of the Supreme Court of Canada concluded that the Tiny township case, a decision of the judicial committee of the Privy Council in 1928, which was believed to have stood in the way of full funding for Roman Catholic separate secondary schools, was wrongly decided.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like to join the Attorney General in a brief statement regarding today's Supreme Court decision.

The Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the constitutional validity of Bill 30 and I would like to say that this government intends to proceed with a careful and sensitive implementation of this initiative.

This government is looking to the future of our publicly funded school systems with a strong commitment to provide quality education for all Ontario students.

I might just add that on this occasion, I would like to personally and sincerely thank all members of this assembly for their support, their constructive criticism and their wise counsel in this very important matter.

I would like to say as well on this day a personal word of congratulations to my colleague the Attorney General for his wonderful handling of our case, which was decided successfully in the Supreme Court of Canada. It proves once again that he is truly one of the most outstanding lawyers ever to grace this chamber and operate in Ontario.

Finally, I want to say in conclusion how very much I have appreciated the very strong, constant and unbending loyalty of my colleague and seatmate, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) of this province, without whose support and commitment all this could not have happened.

1350

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As members of this Legislature know, the government of Ontario is committed to making our province's system of social assistance fair, progressive and effective.

Last fall, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and I announced plans to eliminate the so-called spouse-in-the-house rule for social assistance recipients.

Under this rule, a single parent on social assistance could lose benefits simply because a person of the opposite sex was staying in the house of the recipient. It did not matter, under that rule, whether the recipient received any financial help from the other party.

This was unfair both to the woman, who in most cases depended heavily on our social assistance net, and equally important, to the children. These innocent children could be denied, through no fault of their own, the very basics of existence.

Accordingly, on November 1, 1986, we took the first step by eliminating any inquiries about the sexual or conjugal nature of a relationship between a recipient and another adult. It was the end of a rule that many people found objectionable.

As a second step, we asked George Thomson's Social Assistance Review Committee to provide an implementation framework to replace the spouse-in-the-house rule. I am pleased to table its report today.

We have taken the principles recommended by the committee and fine-tuned them to make them work within our existing system of allowances.

Under the spouse-in-the-house rule, women and their children were the most likely to be adversely affected. The new rules I am announcing today will ensure that no woman will lose her sole source of income simply because she is residing with a man who in fact does not demonstrably provide support to her or her children, nor have a legal obligation to do so.

Under the new criteria, a sole-support parent will be eligible for social assistance unless he or she resides with another person who has a legal obligation to support the parent or the parent's dependent children, or who provides a signifi-

cant economic contribution to the parent or his or her dependent children.

We recognize, though, that a recipient's needs are less when accommodation is shared by the other person. Therefore, there will be an appropriate reduction in benefits in such cases.

These changes will come into effect on November 1, 1987. This will allow us enough time to train our own staff and to assist our municipal partners in implementing the new rules.

I would like to thank the Social Assistance Review Committee and the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund for their hard work and help in developing this new policy.

I am sure members will agree that these changes will have an immediate, positive and fair impact on thousands of our most vulnerable women and children—our families.

MULTICULTURALISM

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yesterday, at the Royal Ontario Museum, I had the honour of announcing a government-wide multiculturalism strategy which will encourage responsiveness in our political, economic, cultural and social institutions. Today I would like to outline the strategy for you.

Our strategy is based on the following principles, which cabinet has endorsed.

We consider the presence of a people of diverse cultural backgrounds to be a source of enrichment and strength. We are committed to equal and responsible citizenship for people of all cultures and races in the province. We support the value of cultural retention for those who choose, and of cultural sharing. We are committed to providing public services which are accessible and responsive to our changing population.

Many reports and studies during the past decade have told us about the realities of this multicultural province. This new approach will move from philosophy to action. The goal of our strategy is to ensure that individuals of all cultures have the opportunity to participate fully in society. Our government legislation, policies, appointments and programs will mirror the spirit of our strategy. For example, my colleague the acting Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Nixon) will be announcing a comprehensive employment equity program shortly.

To turn commitment into action, my cabinet colleagues and I pledge to implement a five-year plan which will ensure that programs operated or funded by the province will respond to the needs

of our multicultural society. Our ministries will design and deliver programs and services in a manner which accommodates our multicultural and multiracial society. We will continue to seek out the views of individuals and cultural communities on issues.

Our plan of action strikes a balance between the individual's responsibility to strengthen the skills needed to participate in society and the government's responsibility to ensure that services are widely accessible.

Government action begins now. We are building on existing programs and launching initiatives across the board. Over the next 18 months, the government will be spending in excess of \$14 million in support of this strategy. While this figure represents our financial commitment, the total impact cannot be measured only in dollars. What we are talking about is fundamental change in the way government operates.

In my own ministry we will provide more support to community groups offering English or French second-language instruction, we will develop new basic materials on citizenship and civic affairs and we will increase assistance to community multicultural museums and provide special funding to the Archives of Ontario for the collection of multicultural records.

As I said before, this is a government-wide plan of action. My colleagues in other ministries will be announcing program details in the future. The following examples, however, illustrate the kinds of initiatives that other ministries will take. The changes will improve access to public services as well as increase intercultural sensitivity and the participation in society of every person in Ontario.

The Ministry of Health will promote multicultural representation on district health councils. It will consult with cultural groups on health promotion issues and with community health centres on expanding services for multicultural clients. The ministry will also produce a resource guide for health care workers.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is developing a multicultural resource kit and training program for child care workers.

The Ministry of Education is taking action to improve relations between the school system and the multicultural community.

The Ontario women's directorate is continuing its efforts to remove barriers to the work force. In co-operation with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, the directorate will also accel-

erate the drive to foster entrepreneurship among women of all cultures.

As I said, these are but a few examples of the initiatives which my colleagues will be announcing in the coming months. Together, all ministries will make our excellent public institutions more sensitive, responsive and accessible to everyone.

This strategy was developed with the help of the public we serve. My ministry held eight think-tanks in Toronto and my colleague the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Ruprecht) held 21 dialogues across Ontario to hear presentations from members of cultural communities. We also talked to cabinet ministers, their staff and other levels of government. I met with many individuals and groups, and I sought the advice of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship.

As we develop new policies and programs, the council, with its wide regional and cultural representation, will continue to advise us. If we are to create a truly open society, then individuals, industry, volunteer organizations and other levels of government must join in the effort. We will do our share.

RESPONSES

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Grossman: While we are all very much relieved by the Supreme Court decision, I want to take this opportunity to remind the government, specifically the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), that the tough job still lies ahead.

It is not enough for the Minister of Education to rise this afternoon and repeat the words "This government is looking to the future of our publicly funded school systems with a strong commitment to provide quality education for all Ontario students." Those words are easy to type, they are easy to put in a statement, but we found out about the minister's strong commitment to quality of education in the public school systems with the budget tabled by the Treasurer.

We found out, in table C3, that total spending for education this year will drop by \$10 million. We found further, in table C6, that grants to school boards will drop by \$61 million this year. That hardly is consistent with brave words such as "a strong commitment to provide quality of education for all Ontario students." The Minister of Education should also know that it lies in his hands not only to get the necessary funds out of the extra \$8 billion dollars his government has

had to spend, not only to get enough money for the education system, but also to make sure it is allocated fairly.

1400

From what we have seen, we can draw only three conclusions.

First, the minister and his colleagues have cut funding absolutely, on a percentage basis, in dollar terms and on every measure this year to both the public and separate schools, in elementary and secondary schools. Those facts lie on the record of the budget of the Treasurer. It does not matter how many times the Premier (Mr. Peterson) uses words that would try to give lie to that reality. The reality is contained in the budget.

Second, if the minister believes he can prove the Premier's words are accurate, I challenge him this afternoon to release the figures with regard to transfers to individual school boards that he and his ministry have totally refused to make available to us. I have no doubt that later on in the year he will make them available, but until now he has covered up the realities and the details of his commitments to the school boards, because he does not want us to have the information.

Third and finally, might I say to the minister he has either failed to get enough money from the Treasurer, who had lots of money to give to the education system to back up the Premier's words, or he has used a significant portion of the money allocated for the public school system for the separate school system. That is a breach of the commitment both governments have made to the parents and students in the public school system.

He has not at all carried through on his commitments, and the words he offered today have not been lived up to one iota by him and his colleagues. His responsibility lies in the future. He has abdicated it to date. He has broken commitments, and it is not enough to stand up and be proud of the fact that the bill dealt with by all three parties in this House has withstood the test of the Supreme Court. We always thought it would.

The easy part is done. The tough part is to fund the school systems properly. He has failed to fund either school system properly and he has failed to fund the public school system fairly to date.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Jackson: I wish to respond to the announcement of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) of the changes in

the spouse-in-the-house rules for social assistance recipients.

What is interesting is not necessarily what is in the announcement of the minister today but specifically what is absent from the minister's announcement. Nowhere has he made any clear indication of what he is going to do with the hundreds, indeed probably thousands, of cases that have fallen under the old criteria, where they are the subject of civil actions by his government for breaches of that old criteria.

I would like to indicate that the report he referred to, the George Thomson review report, makes one reference: "We also encountered much confusion about how individual cases should now be handled. This confusion extends to the ministries and municipal staff as well as recipients."

The minister has made a political statement today. He has drafted and presented no clear-cut guidelines with respect to the retroactive issue and to how the program will be implemented.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Rae: I want to comment briefly on the Supreme Court decision. I think the important point about the decision, which was not mentioned explicitly by either the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) or the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), as I heard them, and which I think it is important to underline, is that in part of the unanimous decision, four of the judges—indeed the majority of the judges—chose to look not simply at whether the Legislature could do what it did with respect to the extension of funding, but specifically at the question of whether in fact there was not an obligation on the part of the Legislature, in the light of the history over the last 120 years, to do basically what it did.

I think that point has to be brought out again and again. The point has to be made that what we did in this last period with respect to the funding of the last two or three years of Catholic high school was to complete the bargain, which was essentially the Confederation bargain, made in 1867. That point is an important one. I think it is of enormous historical importance that the court chose to do that. They chose to basically disagree with the Privy Council case with respect to Tiny township, and we now have a very different view of the law and of the jurisprudence in this province with respect to our historic obligations as part of the Confederation bargain. I think that is very important and it would be wrong of us to ignore that and not to point that out.

I also want to say to the government that I think this decision now clearly places the question of funding and the adequacy of funding at the very centre of the future of debate about our province. It seems to me we can no longer afford to concentrate or focus on questions that divide us. What we must focus on in this province is what unites all parts of the public school systems, and that is the inadequacy of funding, the problem of access, the question of literacy and the problem of drop-outs. These are questions that unite all supporters of our education systems, public and separate, both parts of what I call the broader public system in this province.

That is the focus of the debate and that is the focus of the future. It may divide us on partisan lines but not on any other lines. I must say that is much the way I prefer to do business in Ontario when it comes to fighting for the people of this province.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to respond briefly to the announcement on the spouse-in-the-house rule changes that have finally come to light and been made public. This party has fought very hard to get these changes made in the last number of years, and I am glad there has been some reaction by the government; but I am starting to believe that this government can never do anything completely, that it never can do anything in total. Instead, it comes through with something that picks out part of the good things that are in Judge Thomson's report to it and then ignores others.

I find it amazing the minister has not even mentioned how he has disagreed with Mr. Thomson. What the minister has done is to demand of anybody who is living with a spouse, even if the other terms of legal responsibility are not there, that half the shelter cost will be paid. What Mr. Thomson said was that where they had the capacity to pay that would be demanded, but only then. The government has not brought that factor in.

The other thing he says is that deemed contributions in his case would only be for shelter costs. The government has made it a means to reduce the benefits in their entirety. It has used it, unfortunately, as a means of making more money for the government, reducing the cost and forgetting the rights of these people that it supposedly is asserting with the legal criteria at the beginning.

MULTICULTURALISM

Mr. Rae: I want to respond to the statement by the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Munro).

My copy of the statement reads as follows. On page 2 it says, "For example, today my colleague the acting Chairman of Management Board announced a comprehensive employment equity program." That is what my copy of her announcement says.

I realize that the minister made her statement in a museum and I fully realize that in fact the statement was clearly intended to become part of an exhibit in that museum, because that is about as relevant, up to date and piercing an announcement as we heard today from the minister.

Hon. Mr. Scott: You must have been in the museum yourself, Bob. What were you doing there?

Mr. Rae: The Attorney General (Mr. Scott), who chooses to speak from his seat and frequently makes more sense when he speaks from his seat than when he speaks from his feet, has chosen to—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired. That completes the allotted time for ministerial statements and responses.

Hon. Mr. Scott: More, more.

Mr. Rae: The Attorney General is suggesting I should speak for longer. I am happy to accede to his request.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Go ahead. Speak from your seat.

Mr. Rae: You are doing too good a job, Vince.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps we can continue that dialogue on Monday. Oral questions; the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Grossman: Speaking from his seat is what the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) always does, if I might say.

ORAL QUESTIONS

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Premier. We have a very serious issue that relates to the very fundamental principles of the parliamentary system. That issue relates to cabinet ministers offering truth to the public on every occasion. When ministers fail to offer the truth to the public and to members of the assembly, the long-standing tradition is that ministers must resign.

We have experienced here today an example where, clearly, one of his ministers has failed to offer the truth to the members of this assembly and has an obligation to resign.

1410

We have asked on many occasions over the last few months about the Biddell report on the IDEA Corp. investments. On June 15, just a week ago, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) wrote the chairman of the standing committee on public accounts, saying: "The Biddell report on IDEA investments has not been finalized. Mr. Biddell is still working on the report."

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Grossman: This morning, at the public accounts committee, Mr. Biddell appeared and indicated that he had completed his work totally by February 11 and that he had handed in all of his work to the minister. He considered his job to be totally done, no more work to do. The report was in the hands of—

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Grossman: In view of the fact that the minister has not been truthful with regard to the completion of the Biddell report, why will the Premier not now seek and require his resignation, in accordance with tradition?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the honourable member would want to check more carefully what Mr. Biddell said this morning. My understanding—and I was not there—is that he said the report had not been finalized. Our view is that when it is there and when it is finalized, we will be happy to share it. We invited the member to invite him to the committee to discuss it.

Mr. Gillies: The Premier is dead wrong, completely wrong. Mr. Biddell told the committee this morning that he handed a report in on February 11 with the understanding that the report was complete, that he would be doing no further work on Graham Software or Wyda Systems. Mr. Biddell further told the committee this morning that he had every expectation at the time he brought the report forward in February that it would be made public.

In view of the fact that the minister, and indeed the Premier himself, on numerous occasions in the last five months have so completely misrepresented this situation, in view of the fact that the work Mr. Biddell is going to commence in the near future on the ongoing companies—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I asked, on a previous occasion today, the honourable member to withdraw when he accused another member of clearly misrepresenting. Would you withdraw that?

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, in order that I can complete the question, I will withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: That is very good. Place your question, please.

Mr. Gillies: In view of the Premier's completely inaccurate assessment to this House of what Mr. Biddell told the committee this morning, and in view of the fact that it is very clear that the report on Graham Software and Wyda was completed in February and that his government has been covering it up ever since—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Gillies: —will the Premier bring the report forward immediately and will he ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology to tender his resignation immediately?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I gather my honourable friend was at the committee hearing this morning, but I can assure you there were a number of very credible people there as well. The representatives I have talked with on this matter do not agree with my honourable friend's interpretation.

Mr. Pope: Just to put this matter into context, we are talking about the Wyda Systems investment of \$3 million involving the spouse of one of the Premier's former cabinet ministers. That was the investigation. The Premier ignored a unanimous recommendation of the public accounts committee last fall to have a forensic audit done; he has refused to do it to date. He will not give any information with respect to the Ontario Provincial Police report; he still refuses to do that. He now refuses to release a report that Mr. Biddell says is the totality of public information that can be released on this matter, that this is his report on Wyda and Graham Software, that there was nothing more left to be done.

Ask the New Democratic Party members of the committee. He is completely wrong.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Pope: He has been covering up this matter now for over a year. Will he stop the nonsense, get the minister's resignation and clean up his act?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend has had a preoccupation with this question for some period of time. As I said to him before and will say to him again, I will be very happy at the appropriate time to make the full report available to him and everyone else when Mr. Biddell has completed it. We suggested to the committee that it invite Mr. Biddell to discuss the entire matter. We have nothing to hide. It is the members opposite who have things to hide, not us, believe me. My colleagues who were there have quite a

different interpretation than my honourable colleague has of this matter.

Mr. Gillies: My question is to the Premier. Mr. Biddell said this this morning that the report on Graham Software and Wyda, two very ill-fated and foolish investments by the Premier's government which cost this province \$8 million in taxpayers' money, was completed in February. Mr. Biddell further told the committee that with any work he undertakes on the remaining functioning companies, Mr. Biddell's recommendation to the government will be that those reports not be made public because they could endanger the commercial viability of those companies. Anything Mr. Biddell will be recommending to the Premier be released has been completed for five months.

The Premier asked Mr. Biddell to undertake this study to get the political heat off him for his IDEA scandals, and now that he has completed the report he will not have it tabled. Will the Premier ensure that this information is put before the public and will he undertake to secure the resignation of a minister who has so completely mishandled this matter and who has been responsible for withholding vital public information from this House?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer to the member's last question is no, and the answer to his first question is yes. We are happy to make public whatever is appropriate in the circumstances. My honourable friend may want to just characterize this thing accurately rather than inaccurately. IDEA is an independent board. It was not our government that made these expenditures. It was an independent board the Conservatives created. We have with this, as with many other things, been trying to clean up the mess the previous government created. I will admit one thing. I will admit this thing should have been put to death the first day we came into office, rather than prolonging its agony. It was a terrible mistake of the member's government.

Mr. Grossman: If the Premier had nothing to do with these investments, one wonders why his conflict-of-interest adviser told the husband of the member for Oriole (Ms. Caplan) not to make representations to that board. In point of fact, it is those representations that caused the OPP investigation and the Biddell report, both of which the Premier is ensuring do not come to public light until he finds it convenient.

Let us invite the Premier, for once, to stand up and be counted for a tough decision but a necessary one in order to protect the integrity of the system, let alone his government. It was

reported by his minister to a committee of this Legislature, "Mr. Biddell is still working on the report." That is what he said a week ago. So that we can get out of this who said what, if the transcript from the standing committee on public accounts this morning indicates that Mr. Biddell says he was not working on his report as of June 15, but that he was finished working on his report on February 11, will the Premier in those circumstances get the resignation of his minister and defend the system and defend truth and integrity in information handed out by the cabinet?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have answered that. The answer to the member's question is no. As was indicated by many members, it is an interim report and at the appropriate time it will all be made public.

Mr. Grossman: Let us just establish the record. The member for Oriole was in cabinet. The Premier's conflict-of-interest adviser told her and her husband that he must not approach IDEA Corp. or anyone during her time in cabinet. That is precisely what the Aird report says. The Premier should have read it. It would have been a good lesson for him. That happened and Mr. Caplan approached the government and got a grant from IDEA Corp. and got his salary increased.

The member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) found himself in the classic definition of conflict of interest, his own mining company dealing with his own ministry and getting a grant and not disclosing many of his holdings, as required by the rules.

1420

Mr. Speaker: Question please.

Mr. Grossman: Then we found out last week that the member for Cochrane North and a number of parliamentary assistants, a year later, do not meet the guidelines once again. Now we find a minister who simply has told this House things which were not true.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Grossman: My question is this: remembering that the Premier did not ask the member for Oriole for her resignation; remembering that he did not get the member for Cochrane North's resignation; remembering that he took no action against the parliamentary assistants who again failed to file and meet the guidelines, why will he not once stand up for truth and integrity and get the resignation of a minister who has not been truthful in this House?

Mr. Speaker: Order, the question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: If my honourable friend is so concerned about these matters, why will he not join with us in passing a historic conflict-of-interest bill that will solve all these problems?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), order. There are other members who wish to ask questions. We will just wait. Order.

New question, the member for York South.

Mr. Rae: I think the answer to the rhetorical question from the Premier is that the legislation he is proposing would only condone what has taken place over the last two years.

Mr. Speaker: I ask the member for York South whether he would like to ask a question, and if so, to which minister?

Mr. Rae: That was an answer, Mr. Speaker. Now I have a question.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Rae: My question is to the Minister of Financial Institutions. Shortly after I was woken up by the dulcet tones of my two-year-old this morning, I could not help hearing the only slightly less dulcet and significantly less coherent wording and sounds of the Minister of Financial Institutions.

The minister was talking about how his great efforts to be the white knight in defence of the consumer had somehow—he was not being able to carry out this great function of consumer protection. He apparently has been thrown off his horse by some forces of evil that are out there and he alone is able to protect the consumer. If the minister is a fighter for consumer protection, then J. R. Ewing is a Girl Guide cookie salesman, that is what we are looking at.

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Rae: If the minister is such a fighter on behalf of the consumer, can he tell us why he made his announcement on April 23 about the legislation that was going to be forthcoming on the government's action plan with respect to the problem of car insurance and the problems of car drivers? He said beefed-up consumer legislation was on its way for car owners in Ontario. Obviously it had an accident on the way.

Where is the legislation with respect to the rate review board? Why has he not brought it forward if he is really interested in doing something for consumers or in allowing us to have a debate in

this House and get information out? Where is the legislation with respect to—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The leader of the third party, when he heard my comments this morning on Metro Morning, obviously found that I had struck a chord. What has happened is this—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any further response?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Bill 56 was meant to be introduced immediately to put a cap on what the categories were as of April 23. The reason for that is because the legislation that we are going to propose is quite complex. While that was being developed, we felt that the consumer should be protected.

There are over 300,000 drivers in Ontario who were liable to get a rebate on the basis of that legislation. The leader of the third party and his colleagues have chosen fit not to pass that legislation, not to bring it forward and that is where we are. That is the key. That is not the major legislation but that is the temporary cap while that legislation is being developed.

Mr. Rae: My colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) has just told me that he got \$5 back from his insurance company. We know the Minister of Financial Institutions as Five-Buck Monte, that is what he is. He is Five-Buck Monte when it comes to the consumer ripoff in this province.

The minister says the legislation is too complicated to write, but it is not too complicated to announce. It is not too complicated to hold a press conference at four o'clock in the afternoon and tell the world what he is going to do, but it is too complicated to bring it into this House so we can have a debate.

The reason he has not brought forward that legislation and the reason he is afraid of having a committee look at the legislation he has already proposed is because he is scared. He is scared of a debate on insurance. He is scared of his defence with respect to the insurance companies. He is afraid to debate with us and he is afraid of having the facts come out. Can he deny that?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The leader of the third party, in his usual way, tries to cover up the drivel that comes out of there with rhetoric. Let me tell him—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: If he was truly committed to helping the drivers of Ontario, he would have seen that Bill 56 was passed immediately. He has no more interest in bringing a solution to this problem than the man in the moon. All he is interested in doing is dealing with the issue to prop up his failing campaign.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if I can have the members' attention. The member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) would like to ask a question, and I know he does not want to shout.

Mr. Swart: By way of supplementary, I would like to say to the minister it would be impossible to imagine any minister anywhere being as hypocritical and insincere as he has been on the issue of automobile insurance.

The minister is aware—

Mr. Speaker: The question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Now, the question.

1430

Mr. Swart: The minister is aware, is he not, that already on the books for many decades is section 371 of the Insurance Act, which says: "It is the duty of the superintendent...to order an adjustment of the rates for automobile insurance whenever it is found by him that any such rates are excessive...unfairly discriminatory or otherwise unreasonable."

All he has to do is proclaim that section. He could have done it six months ago, four months ago, two months ago, yesterday or tomorrow, and he would have all the power he needs to freeze rates and eliminate the injustices. Why does he not simply admit he does not want to do anything on the auto insurance issue that is real except some meaningless posturing before an election?

Some hon. members: Happy birthday to you; happy birthday, dear Mel. Happy birthday to you.

[Applause]

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I now understand the reason for the question. The the member for Welland-Thorold is celebrating his birthday, and as a present the leader of his party decided to give him a platform where he could stand up and be recognized, and I appreciate that.

Mr. Swart: Another present the minister could give me would be an answer to the question.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I will be happy to. The member will know—

Mr. Swart: Remember? Section 371.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I will deal with section 371. The member will know that section 371 has been on the books for nearly 50 years and there has never been a desire to implement it. The reason is that to bring about rate control using section 371 would mean an individual hearing for every single company. It is a very unpractical solution. What we are doing with our new rate review board legislation, he will see, deals with it in an efficient, economical way and will bring fairness to the system.

MULTICULTURALISM

Mr. Rae: My new question is to the Minister of Citizenship and Culture. The minister today made a statement that apparently is a summary of a statement she made yesterday in the Royal Ontario Museum. I think most of us would feel the statement, to be polite, simply contains a rather pedestrian series of truisms that could have been said by any government at any time in this province in the last 20 years, and indeed, if you look back over statements made by various Premiers, in fact have been said.

We were and have been looking for a realization of the commitment the Liberal Party made in 1985 dealing specifically with the question of employment equity and affirmative action. Again, that statement was supposed to have been made today in conjunction with this announcement by the minister. Can the minister tell us why the requirement of contract compliance has been dropped by her, in comparison with the document she submitted to the cabinet last fall?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Contract compliance? I am sorry; I do not understand exactly what the member means. Maybe he will have to state it to me again. All I can say in answer to the member's preamble is that this government's new strategies, which we are announcing today, are significantly different from those which have been articulated by previous governments.

The statement says—I think it is well worth repeating, which is the reason I encapsulated it in the format I did today—this government is taking action; it will now be firmly committed to being accountable to multiculturalism, whether it is sensitivity to cultural services or access to decision-making responses within the provincial government. That is worth celebrating. If the member would care to rephrase his question, maybe I could respond in the best way.

Mr. Gillies: Pinch it, Bob; go on, pinch it.

Mr. Rae: Yes, but this is T-Ball.

I think it is absolutely unbelievable that a minister who has the responsibilities she has with respect to multiculturalism and race relations would not understand the meaning of the term "contract compliance." It is a basic concept that applies in the world of affirmative action and employment equity.

I would like to ask the minister: is the government intending to make it a requirement for those who are doing business with the province that they comply, as a matter of law, with the requirements of the government of Ontario with respect to affirmative action?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I am afraid I cannot respond to that question, but I will get back to the member, who will appreciate that I do not want to mislead him. I think what we are trying to do in terms of affirmative action is to make sure that we allow everyone to work within the employment standards as well as we are able to do. I will get back to the leader of the third party.

Mr. Rae: For two days now, the minister has held press conferences outside this House, one in a large tent and another in a museum, to selected audiences, audiences of Liberals selected by her from around the province. Now she is in the House, and she has to answer some questions and she has to know what the answers are.

These are questions that are relevant to women. They are relevant to various groups that have been literally locked out of the power structure of this province for hundreds of years, for centuries in this province, and she has a responsibility to do something about it. It is a responsibility she committed herself to two years ago.

Hon. Mr. Scott: This is a lecture. Let's have the question.

Mr. Rae: The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) should stop heckling. If he does not like it, too bad; tough turkey, my friend.

The question I have for the minister is if she can tell us whether it is going to be a requirement of public policy in this province—somebody just gave her a note—

Mr. Martel: Saved.

Mr. Rae: —saved by the note—that companies doing business with the government of Ontario have to have an affirmative action program, have to have an employment equity program and have to comply with what should be the basic law in this province or not. It is a very simple question.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I think the honourable member's very simple questions are very simple, but they are also very complex and they require a compassionate government to look at all aspects. I have already told the member that various ministries in the government are taking a look at equal opportunities for all peoples and all racial peoples, and we are doing that. Maybe the member would like to ask me a further question on contract compliance.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), please.

Mr. Pope: On a very basic issue, this Liberal government has been found wanting and having no knowledge of its programs and principles once again.

Mr. Speaker: To which minister?

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Pope: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. We all carefully took notes this morning. My recollection—and it is shared by virtually every other member except perhaps some of the minister's cohorts who do not want to admit what was really said this morning—is that a draft report was sent to the minister in late December or early January; that the report itself was sent to him on February 11, 1987; that Mr. Biddell said, "This is my report," and he expected to do no further work; that he did not expect to do a more detailed review; that no further work was going to be done on Wyda Systems and Graham Software matters; and that after he tabled that report he was called and asked to do some more work.

He indicated this morning to our committee that nothing more remained to be done that could be made public and that he saw no reason this report and all the information he gave to the minister could not have been made public on February 11, 1987.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Pope: Did he or did he not say those things this morning?

1440

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The recollections of our people who were there at the meeting this morning are not the same as what the member is giving us here this afternoon.

I would like to refer back to my statement given in October 1986, which stated, "I have asked Jack Biddell to institute a thorough and complete review of the entire IDEA portfolio." It goes on to read "...provide a full review of all

existing investments." All those existing investments were not reviewed. That report of Mr. Biddell's was a draft report and the member knows it. We asked him for additional information.

Mr. Pope: You withheld the report deliberately. You misled the House. A slimy answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Cochrane South, you asked your question. Please allow someone else to ask a supplementary.

Mr. Gillies: By way of supplementary, let me tell the minister that Mr. Biddell told the committee this morning that he put in the report on Wyda and Graham Software in February; that was his report. He further told the committee, and I quote directly, that "very little has been done in this area since February." Of the 20 existing companies the minister makes reference to, one has given permission to have the Ontario Development Corp. officials come in and have a look.

The supplementary question to the minister is simply this: anything that Mr. Biddell will be recommending to the minister be made public was completed in February. He will be recommending to the minister that the work on the ongoing companies not be made public. The minister has covered this up for five months. He has not been candid with the House in this regard. Will he table the report, and in the lack of any standards or direction from his leader on matters of this kind, will he do the honourable thing and submit his resignation as minister?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I can tell the member first of all, no, I do not intend to resign. I intend to continue in the job of trying to clean up the IDEA Corp. The member cannot even remember from this morning that there were 33 companies. He stated 20. We received reports back on only two; so there are still 31 to hear from. I tell the member again—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The member's facts are all wrong. It was a draft report and the member knows it.

Mr. Gillies: They are not. My facts are not wrong. You are dead wrong and you have lied in this House. You have lied.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Brantford accused another member of lying. Will you withdraw that?

Mr. Gillies: No, Mr. Speaker, I will not withdraw that.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He wants to get thrown out.

Mr. Pope: Because it is true.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Phil's day to get thrown out. They rehearsed this in caucus. Standing ovation. Just the way you rehearsed it.

Mr. Harris: It is all there on the record. You know how it works.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris). Order, member for Downsview (Mr. Cordiano).

Mr. Harris: Because I have seen it. I saw it work.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Remember how you rehearsed this?

Mr. Harris: That is exactly how it works.

Mr. Mancini: You are talking about your own experience.

Mr. Harris: You watch the tube. That is how it is going to work.

Mr. Speaker: Order, member for Nipissing.

I will have to ask the Sergeant at Arms to escort Mr. Gillies from the chamber.

Mr. Gillies left the chamber.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) is waiting patiently. Order, Attorney General (Mr. Scott).

NIAGARA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment, and it is a question about water quality in the Niagara River in the light of the latest Environmental Protection Agency report that shows the threat of dioxin in that river is growing from a trickle to a flood.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaitre). It would be very nice if you would sort of respect the rules of the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Grier: Last February, the Minister of the Environment, with a great deal of fanfare, signed a four-party agreement with the US government and the federal government about cleaning up the Niagara River, yet last Monday at a meeting of the co-ordinating committee of the Niagara River Toxics Committee, the fact that there had been released a report showing a growing threat from

dioxin in the Niagara River was never even mentioned.

Can the minister explain to the House why he is telling the public as often and as frequently as he can that he is actively pursuing the excavation of the dumps on the New York side of the Niagara River, yet in the very forums designed to deal with that problem, his ministry is not even putting the question on the agenda?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I think there is nobody in Ontario who is not aware of the stand the province has on those particular dump sites which are immediately adjacent to the Niagara River. We have been consistent in that. That position has been enunciated by me not simply in Canada, where it is easy to do so, or in Ontario, where we recognize the potential consequences which I have contended for a long time have been forthcoming—this report confirms once again that those are exactly the consequences of their inaction—but also in the United States, right in Buffalo, Niagara Falls, wherever it happens to be.

The honourable member would know that Henry Williams, who is the previous commissioner of the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation, and Mr. Thomas, the administrator of the EPA, are all well aware of the position that I will continue to put.

I welcome the opportunity, through the member's question, to reiterate that once again. It is our belief that the permanent solution to those particular sites which are immediately adjacent to the river is in fact the excavation of those sites.

The member for York South (Mr. Rae) is falling asleep. But in addition to this—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the minister could add that addition to the supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The supplementary, fine.

Interjections.

Mrs. Grier: The minister is saying again, as he has said before, he wants excavation of the dumps; but is it any wonder that his message is not getting across to the US authorities if his officials in the working meetings designed to solve the problem do not even talk about the issue? That was the question I asked the minister.

What I would like to ask him as a supplementary is: given that nothing is happening to clean up the Niagara River, is he at least and at last prepared to put into place some standards for drinking water in this province so the people can be assured that when this dioxin gets down into Lake Ontario, as it obviously will, it is not

getting into the treated drinking water? When are we going to get some standards for drinking water in this province?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked twice.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The fact that we would have standards, of course, would not remove that particular dioxin from the position it is in, or any of the other substances; although I think the member does have a concern in that direction, which I share.

I want to indicate to her a good example of our ministry's activities. As members are aware, we are working in conjunction with Pollution Probe. We help to fund a study, because on the other side of the river, of course, for years they refused to even talk about the potential for the excavation of those sites. So we funded to the tune of \$25,000, along with the federal government which matched it and Pollution Probe itself, a study which in fact was a feasibility study done by a person from the Netherlands on the Hyde Park site.

1450

It seems to me the evidence is clear, it is there and our American friends know it. I call upon them on every occasion to ensure that kind of activity is undertaken. In addition to that, the provisions of the agreement between Canada and the United States and New York state and Ontario are such that we have given an undertaking that there shall be a programmed commitment to significantly reduce those contaminants which are going into the river.

Activities are already under way. They are not moving quickly enough for the member or for me, but I will tell her that I, as a minister of Ontario, will continue to push the Americans in every possible forum to take the action that is necessary.

WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Epp: I have a question for the Treasurer. As he knows, Waterloo region has undergone and is undergoing unprecedented growth. In conjunction with this, we also have a serious water shortage. In fact, we recently had restrictions on lawn watering and the region was seriously thinking of restricting the washing of cars and so forth.

Given that we had these drought situations and that they are increasingly serious from time to time, I wonder whether the Treasurer will accede to the request by the region of Waterloo to meet with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), together with the regional officials and

other government officials, to consider this very serious matter of possibly providing alternative action to supply water to the region.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thank the honourable member for his question. I think he is aware that I have already indicated I would be very glad to meet with the regional chairman, the Minister of the Environment—who is always a pleasure to meet with, as the member knows—and the members from the area to talk about this whole matter of water supply.

I am also aware that extensive planning has gone on for an alternative water supply that has had an environmental assessment and approval. It seems to me the funding that I would be asked to approve certainly ought to be given active consideration so we could go forward with that approved plan. I understand that provides adequate water supply for 15 years. I would also be glad to give any consideration necessary to any alternative that might be thought more appropriate by the regional chairman, the honourable members or the Minister of the Environment.

Mr. Speaker: I just checked my list and I understand the member is parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Nixon).

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I believe it would be appropriate, in view of the fact that the question was totally out of order and a fairly flagrant abuse of the rules of the House, that four minutes be added to question period.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The suggestion has been made that four minutes be added. However, the honourable member realizes that it certainly did not take up that much time. I will be glad to add one minute.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Pope: I have a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. We will continue to differ, in light of his statements in the House over the last five months, as to what he really said and what the truth is. We will continue to differ on that.

In any event, will the minister admit the truth of what Mr. Biddell said this morning with respect to the Wyda Systems and Graham Software investments, that there is no further work left to be done on those two matters? If the minister accepts Mr. Biddell's word that he is

doing no further work on the Wyda and Graham Software matters, will he today, right now, table that February 11, 1987, report that deals specifically with those matters, as the minister asked Mr. Biddell to do at the time?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I reiterate to the member that the report we have received is an interim one or a draft one; it is not complete. We are waiting for additional information to come in, and when the additional information comes in, we will be very pleased to release that report.

Mr. Pope: This government has consistently—
Interjection.

Mr. Pope: The member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) is absolutely right. That is exactly what is going on.

Since last fall, this government has refused to do a forensic audit on Wyda in spite of the fact that all members of the committee, including the Liberals, asked it to do so. They did a financial review that accomplished nothing. This matter is now in the hands of the Ontario Provincial Police and has been for a few months. The government still has not produced any report on that investigation. They have not produced the Biddell report with respect to Wyda and Graham Software, which led them to appoint Mr. Biddell—

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Pope: Why do they continue to cover this matter up? Did Mr. Biddell recommend that OPP charges be laid? Is that why they are covering it up?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: As usual, the member is full of wind and no substance whatsoever. We could go back to our estimates. The member was told at the time that it was a draft report, that it was not completed and that Mr. Biddell was being asked for additional information. The member also knows that he called before the standing committee on public accounts last week the OPP investigators on this and he did receive a report on it, but he is saying today he does not know anything about it. He has been kept fully advised by the OPP, the Ontario Development Corp. and the members of our committee.

Mr. Epp: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I ask the member to withdraw the comments.

Mr. Speaker: It is general practice when a person has a point of privilege that he gives notice. There is a certain time when the House

meets, for instance, after question period, if you have a point of privilege.

Mr. Epp: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Just a few minutes ago, I heard the member for Etobicoke use some very unparliamentary language with respect to my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. I believe he is going to want to withdraw those remarks because they were completely unparliamentary and uncalled for.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am not aware of what the member said. I will have to look at Hansard, because I do not know what he said.

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. The minister is aware of the efforts made by the Canadian Auto Workers to deal with excessive overtime. Two prime examples in this province are de Havilland and Northern Telecom. Is the minister aware that voluntary overtime, the company requirement that the workers work overtime, is one of the key reasons that almost 4,000 workers at de Havilland are now out on strike?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am absolutely amazed that members of that party would stand in this political forum and begin to make comments on collective bargaining disputes in such a way as could prolong them. I am aware—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Do not give me that holier-than-thou stuff. Any time it is on the other side, the members are always the first to say—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the minister would address the chair and disregard the interjections.

1500

Hon. Mr. Wrye: It is just absolutely amazing, Mr. Speaker. I know you are amazed. I am aware that there is a complex series of issues which regrettably, after very difficult and very extensive bargaining, has led to a labour dispute at de Havilland. It is the hope of the government in this dispute, as it is in all disputes, that an early and amicable settlement will be reached by the parties. The parties are bargaining directly. However, I say to my friend the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner), who shows his ignorance again today, the mediation services of the ministry are available, but if the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere knew what you and I know, Mr. Speaker, the CAW prefers to bargain directly.

Mr. Mackenzie: I feel a little sorry for the minister, but I will not respond to his first remarks.

Given the report of the Donner task force appointed by this minister in response to the overtime problem, a report which recommended a 40-hour work week and voluntary overtime, with a unanimous recommendation from business and labour, and which would allow Ontario only to catch up with five other provinces and the United States, will the minister give a clear message to the parties to the de Havilland dispute that he intends to implement these recommendations of the Donner task force? Let us take this out of the dispute problem at de Havilland Aircraft.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I have said all I am going to say for now on this matter. I will repeat again and the honourable member can take it for what it is worth, that I react in a positive way to the fact that the parties, in a matter in which they had near-consensus, have reached an agreement on a package of reforms to hours of work and overtime. Beyond that, I will not make comment until we can bring a package of reforms forward to cabinet, and we hope to do that as quickly as possible.

Very briefly, I do not want the impression again to be left that this is the only issue on the table at de Havilland. The member, who has bargained for many years, knows full well that in this dispute there is a very complex series of issues which regrettably have led to this labour dispute.

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

Mr. Morin: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Ottawa-Carleton's sewer and water infrastructure needs tens of millions of dollars of rehabilitation. Otherwise, they will continue to decay and pollute our rivers and drinking water. How will the new LifeLines program help Ottawa and other regions?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Very good, I must say—one of the better questions that has been asked in this House today.

I respond to the member by saying that the program to which he made reference, the LifeLines program, means that for the first time in the history of Ontario, infrastructure renewal will be funded by the Ministry of the Environment. I have indicated to the municipalities of Ontario that we are prepared to fund one third of the cost of all infrastructure renewal.

The municipalities will have to undertake studies, as some of them are at the present time,

to identify the specific problems. When they have identified those specific problems, we are prepared to stand shoulder to shoulder with them to help them solve what has been a historic problem because of the ageing of the system. We are talking here about the pipes that deliver water for drinking purposes and the pipes that take sewage to sewage treatment plants in Ontario. Many of the municipalities have indicated their problems with these and we are now prepared to help solve those problems.

PEC FINANCIAL CORP.

Mr. Pope: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. It is a matter I spoke privately to him about some four months ago. It is a matter the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) put in Orders and Notices last July 7, and it relates to an investigation that is now about to enter its third year.

Could the minister inform the members of the House of the state of the investigation of the PEC Financial Corp.? Why has it taken the Ontario Securities Commission so long to complete its investigation? Can the minister explain to us, in view of the fact that the spouse of a former cabinet minister, Wilf Caplan, is involved in this matter, why he has not expedited this investigation and completed it, as we privately and publicly asked him to do many months ago?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member will know that once the investigation has started I have no jurisdiction to interfere with it. The investigation has been ongoing; it has been conducted by the Ontario Securities Commission. I understand the Ontario Provincial Police have been involved as well. When the report comes in, I will be able to respond. I have no control over the speed at which they conduct their investigation.

Mr. Pope: With respect, I believe the minister can request—and it is incumbent upon him, given the circumstances of this case—an expediting of the investigation. It has been over two years now. This is going on into its third year. There have been a number of private inquiries before this matter was brought to the minister in the House today. Understanding the public interest because of the significant financial implications of this matter, why is he not taking it in hand and making sure the investigation is completed expeditiously and the public knows what is going on?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: With respect, I suggest that most people in the public are not even aware of the investigation. The member has, rightly so, spoken to me about it privately. I told him at the

time that an investigation was ongoing and when the investigation was complete, I would report back to him. I do not have the report yet.

MINING ACCIDENT

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Attorney General. The Attorney General will know the sense of dismay in the Sudbury community after charges were laid against Mr. Kuhle. That sense of dismay has been only increased by the decision to delay the holding of the preliminary inquiry, over the objections of Mr. Kuhle and his counsel, to January 18, 1988.

Is the Attorney General aware of any discussions, either between him and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) or between any crown attorneys or officials in his ministry and officials in the Ministry of Labour, with respect to the report of the Ministry of Labour with regard to practices in our province's mines? Can he explain why this report is still being delayed?

Hon. Mr. Scott: With respect to the second question, I am unaware of any such conversations, and for my own part have had none. I should say that I gave instructions to the crown attorney in the district of Sudbury that the preliminary inquiry, if one was requested, should be held at the earliest available date, consistent with the desire of the accused. I take it from what my friend says that he does not believe that has occurred. I will undertake to look into that question to see what can be done so that an early date can be achieved.

Mr. Rae: I think that is important, because the date is a delayed one, as we understand it.

With respect to the other part of the question, we have been promised in this House a statement by the Minister of Labour, which statement has not been forthcoming. We have also been told by the Minister of Labour that one of his concerns is that he does not want any report to affect, as he put it, the outcome and the conduct of the criminal trial.

What I would like to ask the Attorney General is quite simply, what discussions have taken place with respect to the report of the Ministry of Labour? He knows the opposition within the Ministry of Labour to the laying of the criminal charges. I know he is aware of that. When are we going to get that information from the Ministry of Labour? It may well have an impact with respect to Mr. Kuhle.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I have had no discussions with the Minister of Labour about this. I am aware that none of my senior officials has had any discussions with the Minister of Labour

about this. I am not aware as to whether some very junior official might have had such discussions, and I will inquire. It seems to me that if the member wants a report from the Minister of Labour, he had better ask the Minister of Labour for the report.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

MULTICULTURALISM

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I have a question for the Minister of Citizenship and Culture concerning the new strategy for multiculturalism, which appears to me to be a rather exciting approach to integration of ethnocultural groups into government, particularly agencies, boards and commissions. The question I have has to do with the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship and what place it will have in this new strategy.

Hon. Ms. Munro: As the member will be aware, the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship has been asked on many occasions to give advice as it relates to multicultural policy and strategy. We consider using that particular council to help us in evaluating the program. The council will work in an objective arm's-length relationship with government.

In addition, in terms of evaluating the program we will also, as a lead ministry, take a role in that particular evaluation. I can assure the citizens of Ontario therefore that this new multicultural strategy will have teeth in it.

1510

Mr. Grossman: On a point of personal privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Or a point of order.

Mr. Grossman: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have just received from the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) a news release, Compensation Fund Proposed for Prepaid Funerals. It is very interesting, but this two-page press release came in a maybe \$3 envelope. I want to indicate to the minister that he could send these without the envelope and save the taxpayers \$3.

Mr. Speaker: What standing order were you referring to?

Mr. Grossman: Standing order 41—standing order 41(b), I am sorry.

Mr. Speaker: I will check that out, thank you.

PETITION

TRANSIT SERVICES

Ms. Caplan: I wish to present an additional 5,000 petitions from the residents of North York, bringing the total to over 12,000 petitions that I have tabled in this House.

I want to say on behalf of the residents, particularly in my riding, how pleased they were with the unanimous support this morning for the resolution in private members' hour.

These petitions are in support of the Sheppard subway line, and I am pleased to table them with the House.

Mr. Speaker: They are addressed to the Lieutenant Governor, are they?

Ms. Caplan: Yes, sir.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PREPAID FUNERAL SERVICES ACT

Hon. Mr. Kwinter moved first reading of Bill 103, An Act respecting Prearranged and Prepaid Funerals.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: This act is designed to provide increased protection for Ontario consumers who prepay for funeral services. A compensation fund covering consumers for certain financial losses is one of many important safeguards proposed.

To allow these protection measures to function, changes to the Ministry of Health's Funeral Services Act are also required. These amendments are contained in companion legislation being proposed by the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). I hope my honourable colleagues will support the proposals.

FUNERAL SERVICES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Elston moved first reading of Bill 104, An Act to amend the Funeral Services Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Elston: These amendments provide necessary backup legislation for the proposals of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations under the Prepaid Funeral Services Act so it can proceed with consumer protection measures.

Certain legislative provisions and mechanisms must be established through my ministry, and the expansion of the Funeral Services Review Board is among the proposed amendments included in the package. I urge all to support this reform.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

HAMILTON JEWISH COMMUNAL PROJECTS ACT

Mr. Ward moved second reading of Bill Pr9, An Act respecting Hamilton Jewish Communal Projects.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

PORT STANLEY TERMINAL RAIL INCORPORATED ACT

Mr. Reycraft moved second reading of Bill Pr18, An Act respecting Port Stanley Terminal Rail Incorporated.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

TOWNSHIP OF CHAPLEAU ACT

Mr. Laughren moved second reading of Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the Township of Chapleau.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF BARRIE ACT

Mr. McLean moved, on behalf of Mr. Rowe, second reading of Bill Pr45, An Act respecting the City of Barrie.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF LONDON ACT

Mr. Reycraft moved, on behalf of Ms. E. J. Smith, second reading of Bill Pr51, An Act respecting the City of London.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF TORONTO ACT

Mr. Offer moved second reading of Bill Pr57, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL ASSESSORS ACT

Mr. Cousens moved second reading of Bill Pr63, An Act respecting the Institute of Municipal Assessors of Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF THE
PURCHASING MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
INC. ACT

Mr. McFadden moved second reading of Bill Pr65, An Act respecting the Ontario Institute of the Purchasing Management Association of Canada Inc.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

WINDSOR YOUTH MARCHING
AND CONCERT BAND ACT

Mr. Newman moved second reading of Bill Pr68, An Act respecting Windsor Youth Marching and Concert Band.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND
PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved third reading of Bill 34, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy.

Mr. Sterling: I want to make a few brief comments in regard to Bill 34, which is the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. After many sessions over the past two years dealing with this particular bill, I want to draw to the attention of the Legislature the—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Could we dispense with this?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Dispense.

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I may want to comment at some length on this.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Carleton-Grenville has the floor.

Mr. Sterling: The standing committee on the Legislative Assembly worked for a long period of time putting together a number of amendments to the original piece of legislation. The bill we now have before us has significant amendments to it, and I would like to draw members' attention to three matters in the bill.

First of all, under section 11 of the bill, there is an obligation to disclose under this act without a request from the public. No other freedom of information act contains this. It is an innovative and new step that was introduced in the former government's legislation some time ago in 1984 under my name. I just wanted to indicate to the Legislature the origin of that particular section of the legislation.

The second point I wanted to raise is the concern of our party over the inclusion of the privacy section under the public interest test. The privacy provisions of this act have been significantly attacked by the fact that while an individual who is dealing with the government may feel that he has confidentiality protection under a statute, he may not have that particular privacy protection.

Under this act, if you give to the government a piece of information about which a piece of legislation says, "This information will not be disclosed about you," this act gives the right to the Information and Privacy Commissioner to overrule that statute in effect. It also gives the Information and Privacy Commissioner the right to overrule the head of an institution who chooses to look at the legislation, look at the freedom of information act, and withhold that information. While our party supported the public interest test in a number of other areas, we do register our concern over the inclusion in the exemptions under section 21 of the public interest test.

The last and final point which I wanted to make relates to the review process which this bill outlines. Under this bill, the Information and Privacy Commissioner is the be-all and end-all with regard to the release of information. There is no appeal mechanism set forward in the bill in order for another body of commissioners, another court, to review the decision of the information commissioner.

We find the greatest flaw in this piece of legislation in relation to the appeal structure. The method by which a person will be applying for a piece of information will be such that he will go to the information commissioner in order to obtain a piece of information. The trouble with the structure is that not only is the information commissioner there to help a person seek information, or inform him of his privacy rights, but he is the final judge and arbiter on the matter.

We would have preferred the federal structure, where the Information Commissioner or Privacy Commissioner acts in the role of an ombudsman in order to assist members of the public who wanted to utilize this piece of information. We would have preferred that another person or another body of people would have made the final decision with regard to the release of the information.

With that, we look forward to utilizing many of the sections of the act, as it may be implemented into law, which I understand will take place in the very near future. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Are there comments and questions of the member for Carleton-Grenville? There being none, is there any other honourable member who wishes to participate in the debate? If not, this will complete the debate.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I was going to take a little time to thank all honourable members who have participated in the debate and to thank the public servants, Steve McCann and Frank White, who have worked so hard on this bill over the last two years, assisting me at committee. In addition, I wanted to thank the administrators in each of the departments who have made a determined effort to get this bill ready for its administration. I should tell the House that we hope to appoint a commissioner very shortly.

I was going to take the time to do all those things, but my friend the member for Carleton-Grenville took all the time explaining why the Conservatives never passed any such bill in 42 years, so I must stop right now.

Motion agreed to.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 79, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

House in committee of the whole.

PENSION BENEFITS ACT (continued)

Consideration of Bill 170, An Act to revise the Pension Benefits Act.

The Deputy Chairman: There are some sections that were stood down yesterday. Would you prefer to discuss them now or wait?

Mr. McClellan: I think we can fruitfully discuss them now if that is agreeable to my colleagues. I suggest we return to section 8.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there unanimous consent that we start with this one?

Agreed to.

On section 8:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that clause 8(1)(e) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"8(1)(e) if the pension plan is a multi-employer pension plan established pursuant to a collective agreement or a trust agreement, a board of trustees appointed pursuant to the pension plan or a trust agreement establishing the pension plan of whom at least one half are representatives of members of the multi-employer pension plan, and a majority of such

representatives of the members shall be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants."

Mr. McClellan: I spoke briefly yesterday, indicating that I was moving a package of three amendments designed to protect the interests of Canadian workers where they are members of a pension plan that is trusted by an international union in the United States.

The first of these amendments, which I am moving now, establishes that at least half of the workers' representatives on a board of trustees of a multi-employer plan shall be either Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. This is simply for the purpose of protecting the assets, protecting the property of the Canadian members of trade unions whose funds are trusted in another country.

As part of the package of amendments, we are making provision that if a Canadian affiliate of an international trade union makes a decision to become a Canadian union, it will be possible under my amendments—this amendment to section 8, the next amendment to section 39 and the third amendment to section 81—for the new Canadian trade union to receive the assets of the pension plan in an orderly manner. There would be an orderly transfer of pension assets from the parent international union to the successor union, the successor in terms of collective bargaining rights under section 56 of the Labour Relations Act.

I want to thank the ministry for a tremendous degree of co-operation and sensitivity in dealing with this very complex and difficult issue and in providing a great deal of assistance to myself and to representatives of the trade union movement in developing this package of three amendments. I think a great many people appreciate the co-operation that has been shown by the ministry in working out an acceptable draft, acceptable language, to achieve the objectives I have described.

I understand that my colleagues in the Conservative Party as well are comfortable with the compromise language that has been developed and that these amendments will in fact be incorporated as part of the Pension Benefits Act. I think this goes a long way towards protecting the financial interests of Canadian workers and making it possible in future times for Canadian workers to make democratic decisions about whether they want to make their unions wholly Canadian, without having to worry about the power of an international union to withhold pension funds and prevent them from so doing.

I think these three amendments are significant to move forward in both our pension legislation and our trade union legislation. Again, I congratulate the minister for his helpful co-operation and that of his staff in making these amendments possible.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I just want to reiterate what the member for Bellwoods said, in that we were delighted to be able to work out this accommodation. It was something that had input from all parties and it had input from the labour movement. We will certainly be supporting this amendment.

Mr. Ashe: I have to apologize to the member for Bellwoods. When he started his remarks relative to this amendment, I was carrying on some dialogue with our House leader.

Just in the way of clarification, I understand what these amendments now do is only make sure that the assets shall flow if there is a separation from an international union for the creation of a Canadian union, and of course, they will be handled only by Canadian citizens or landed immigrants, but it has no impact upon recognized multigroup employers, as I think they are called, that are international in nature, that still exist in their international form and that already have ongoing joint plans, etc., in which there are no ongoing problems.

Can the member just assure me those multi-employer plans that now exist that are international in nature and have international pension boards and so on are not included in this envelope? I know that is not intended but I just want to be assured they are not.

Mr. McClellan: The member correctly describes the purpose of the amendment, which is in a sense to provide for successor rights. If one trade union as a bargaining agent succeeds another trade union as a bargaining agent under section 56 of the Labour Relations Act, these amendments make it possible for the members to transfer their pension fund assets from the old union to the new union.

There is a provision that will affect existing plans and that is the present amendment that there will be a requirement that a majority of the representatives of members of a multi-employer pension plan registered in Ontario—that is to say, a pension plan that is holding money of Canadian citizens—be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants as the union representatives on the board of trustees. What we are doing is providing for a measure of protection for Canadian workers who are contributing to pension plans that are registered here in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Section 8, as amended, agreed to.

1540

On section 27:

Mr. McClellan: Did I move my amendment to section 27?

The Deputy Chairman: No, not yet.

Mr. McClellan: I thought I had moved it. I stood it down, but I thought I had moved it for the record in which case I need to withdraw it.

The Deputy Chairman: Do you wish to withdraw it?

Mr. McClellan: If I am correct that I moved my amendment to section 27 yesterday, I wish to withdraw it and move instead another compromise motion.

The Deputy Chairman: The motion is withdrawn if you move the motion now.

Mr. McClellan moves that section 27 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(5) Where a proposed amendment affects members or former members represented by a trade union that is a party to a collective agreement filed as a document that creates or supports a pension plan, the administrator shall transmit to the trade union the written notice mentioned in subsection (1).”

Mr. McClellan: Very briefly, what I would prefer to put into section 27 would be an amendment that gives trade union representatives who are responsible for pension plans that flow from the collective agreement for which they are responsible the right of consent to any changes, the right of notice to any proposed changes in the pension plan and the right to represent their members before the commission.

However, as I say, we are obviously engaged in a process of negotiation and compromise here, as befits a minority parliament. Since there is not agreement to the first of these items, that is to say, prior consent, we will not pursue it since it would not carry in this parliament.

The notice provision is being accepted by the ministry.

The third item, the entitlement to represent members before the commission, is something that any member of a pension plan can request. Any member who is involved in a dispute before the superintendent or before the commission has the right under this act to have his trade union act on his behalf as his representative, so that right is already guaranteed in the act. Again, I under-

stand this is an amendment that all parties will support.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The amendment as proposed yesterday really provided a veto power for unions and that was something we could not accept. We are pleased that we have worked out a compromise and we certainly feel that the idea of having notification to all members of the union and provision that, if members desire, they can have the union represent them at any pension hearing is something we accept. We will be supporting this amendment.

Mr. Ashe: I think this compromise that has been reached is a reasonable and rational one. I think it is only fair that those who are party to a plan should be aware of any proposed changes and so on, and of course that is exactly what this subsection 5 does. Therefore, we are in support of it.

Motion agreed to.

Section 27, as amended, agreed to.

On section 39:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that section 39 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

“(5) Where a member of a multi-employer pension plan is represented by a trade union, which, in accordance with section 56 of the Labour Relations Act, ceases to represent the member, and the member joins a different pension plan, the member is entitled to terminate membership in the first plan.

“(6) Subsection 5 does not apply where there is a reciprocal agreement respecting the two pension plans.”

Mr. McClellan: This is the second of the package of three amendments designed to deal with multi-employer pension plans and the hitherto difficult problem of transfer when one trade union succeeds another trade union. Obviously, where there is a reciprocal agreement in place, the reciprocal agreement will apply. But if there is not a reciprocal agreement in place, and we are dealing with a situation of a parent international union and a newly formed Canadian union, this amendment makes it clear that the members of the successor union, under section 56 of the Labour Relations Act, have a right to terminate their membership in the plan.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Again, this is an amendment we have worked out with representatives of all parties and labour and we will be supporting the amendment.

Motion agreed to.

Section 39, as amended, agreed to.

Mr. Ashe: I wonder whether the minister would like a third shot at section 54a?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I do not know whether I want a third shot, but I am still a little troubled by that vote. Perhaps I can just spend a minute. We had section 54, which was the amendment of the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). We then had a new section 54 brought forward by the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe).

Mr. Ashe: Carried on a voice vote.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Then we had section 54a. It seemed to me that if the member for Bellwoods amended the member for Durham West's motion, section 54, and was defeated, then we should have passed section 54 and moved on from there to section 54a. The confusion is that we went from the first section 54 to section 54a without dealing with the second section 54. That is where the problem came up and that is where we lost the continuity. If that is not the case, I do not know, but that is where the confusion came in because I had an original section 54 that I withdrew in place of the member for Durham West's section 54. It was a very complex issue, but somehow or other I think the second section 54 was missed in the vote.

The Deputy Chairman: In any case, the problem was settled to the satisfaction of everyone.

Mr. Ashe: I share slightly, if that is the right word, the concerns of the minister. My understanding of what happened—I think before we move on we have to make sure that is what happened or we may end up with no section 54 at all—is that I think section 54 as I moved it carried on a voice vote and therefore was not part of the divisional vote later on. That is my understanding of what happened but I think we want to make sure that the Chairman of the committee of the whole House also indicates and shows it that way or we will end up with no section 54 at all.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: What I felt was that if section 54 as proposed by the government had been carried by a voice vote and had not been amended or attempted to be amended, I would have agreed. But what we have is that we withdrew our amendment; the member for Durham West brought in a new amendment; the member for Bellwoods brought an amendment to his amendment and we defeated that amendment. I felt that because the second section 54 was a new amendment, we should have voted on it. I

stand in your hands, Mr. Chairman. You make a ruling on it.

The Deputy Chairman: I have very broad shoulders, if you want to pass the bag to me. Let me read you section 54 that was proposed by the member for Durham West:

"I move that section 54 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"54(1) Pension benefits, pensions or deferred pensions shall be adjusted in accordance with the established formula or formulas and in the prescribed manner to provide inflation-related increases.

"(2) Any formula or formulas for any inflation-related adjustments to pension benefits, pensions or deferred pensions shall be established only by amendment to this act."

That was carried. Is everybody satisfied?

1550

On section 64:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that section 64 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

"(9) In respect of employment before the first day of January, 1987, any member of a pension plan is entitled to waive his or her entitlement to a pension and any former member is entitled to waive his or her entitlement to a deferred pension by filing a waiver in the prescribed form with the administrator of the pension plan.

"(10) Upon the filing of the waiver, the member ceases to be entitled to a pension and the former member ceases to be entitled to a deferred pension in respect of employment before the first day of January, 1987, but becomes entitled to a refund of contributions made by or for the member or former member in respect of the period before that date and to interest on the contributions.

"(11) Subsections 9 and 10 apply notwithstanding subsections 1 to 8."

Mr. McClellan: That complex-sounding amendment has a very simple purpose. It provides a waiver to locking-in for contributions prior to January 1, 1987, to give members of the pension plan one last opportunity, if they choose to exercise the option, to attain their vested benefits prior to locking-in. I do not know whether the minister is inclined to be this generous to people who want to exercise that option or whether he is going to be rigid and inflexible.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member will know that I am known for my generosity, but having said that, I find the amendment is unacceptable because it eliminates all locking-in requirements

for pre-January 1, 1987, pension benefits. Some locking-in is desirable, but employees should be encouraged to leave their contributions in the plans and save for retirement. An employee who withdraws the employee contributions will lose his or her entitlement to the employer's contributions and to a pension, and because of that I will not be supporting the amendment.

Mr. Ashe: Actually, I find this amendment rather amusing, to put it mildly, after listening to the diatribe yesterday from the member for Bellwoods about retroactive vesting, about shorter vesting periods that would go retroactive before, earlier in 1987, etc. It seems to me exactly the opposite of this one.

Yesterday he was making the case that people should be able to count on that money at retirement and so on, regardless of whether it was a contribution prior to 1987 or not. Today he is saying, "Really, we should give everybody a last kick at the cat to be able to take out everything before they are locked in." From my perspective, that is trying to play both ends against the middle.

I agree with the minister in regard to those that are locked in under the present regulations, which were rather loose in any event with the 10-and-45-type situation—10 years, aged 45. They should remain to the credit of that individual, that worker, for his or her retirement benefits. That is what they were put in for in the first place and that is why they should be there at the end. We do not support this amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 64 agreed to.

Sections 65 to 78, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 79:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subsections 79(2) and (3) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(2) The commission shall not consent to payment out of a pension fund of money from surplus to or for the employer."

Mr. McClellan: This very succinct amendment would put an end to the legalized theft of surplus pension funds. I do not know how many times we have raised issues, examples, horror stories of corporations taking the deferred wages of employees and sticking the money in their own pockets.

Conrad Black, of course, now busily engaged in destroying one of Canada's premier magazines, is the most grotesque example of this kind of corporate ripoff. Mr. Black applied to the Pension Commission of Ontario for \$62 million in surplus pension funds from the Dominion Stores workers, having already destroyed the Dominion Stores empire, as he successfully destroyed the Massey-Ferguson commercial empire.

This gentleman, this industrial baron, this paragon of capitalism, having destroyed every enterprise he touched his hands upon, then decided with legal impunity to steal the money of the Dominion Stores workers and applied to the pension commission for \$62 million of the Dominion Stores workers. He was awarded by the pension commission, I believe, \$38 million or \$39 million. What is a million when you are Conrad Black, stuffing your pockets with the pension fund of Ontario workers whom you have recently put out of work?

Despite all the examples, despite the hundreds of millions of dollars that have been taken out of surplus accounts since the free-enterprise community discovered that this was an untapped gold mine, starting in the early 1980s, the ministry has responded with a temporary moratorium.

I have to say to the minister that I believe the only reason there is a temporary moratorium in place is the pressure put on this government by the leader of the New Democratic Party and my colleagues in the NDP and the response that got from the people of this province. But I do not trust him, quite frankly, to continue that moratorium in place were he to return in more fortunate circumstances for himself.

I do not think any government should be trusted to turn the tap on and off on the issue of surplus pension fund withdrawals. I believe that all earnings from pension fund accounts should be used solely for the benefit of the members of the pension plan.

This is not to say we cannot work out a kind of reconciliation of accounts so that pension fund sponsors and pension fund contributors are not required to bear extraordinary upfront costs if there is an unfunded liability. I think it is possible for accountants to work out reconciliation. I do not think it is an unusual accounting concept. We all know it is a normal accounting practice to do a cyclical reconciliation and to equalize burdens according to some prescribed and agreed-upon formula.

But to say, as we have been saying in this province, that all the earnings on pension fund

accounts are fair game to be siphoned off either in the form of withdrawals or by service contribution holidays is legalized theft. There is no other word for it. They are taking the earnings on people's deferred wages and allowing the assets to build up to a point where they can be looted by people like Conrad Black. The minister's temporary moratorium is not a solution. I do not know whether the Friedland task force will have the courage to put an end to this piracy; we will see.

I have to say that the people of this province I have talked to over the last two years, since serving as pension critic for the NDP, understand the fundamental unfairness and injustice of surplus pension fund withdrawals, even if the minister and his officials do not. The people of this province understand unfairness when they see it happening, and the minister will be forced by the pressure of public opinion, whether he does it now or at some future time, to make sure all moneys in pension funds are used solely and exclusively for the benefit of the members of the pension plan.

1600

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Subsection 80(8) provides for a moratorium on surplus fund withdrawals, and it will remain in effect until the Friedland task force reports and makes its recommendations.

One of the concerns I have, as the minister, is to make sure pension plans remain viable or solvent and provide the promised benefits that workers in this province expect to get. One of the reasons that is so is that plan sponsors fund these plans adequately. They usually fund them small-c conservatively to make sure those funds are there.

Mr. McClellan: Is that what Conrad Black did?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: What I am saying to the member is that what we have to do is make sure we do not do two things: force plan sponsors to decide either (a) "We are going to get out of defined-benefit plans and go to defined-contribution plans and group RRSPs," or (b), "We will not put in our contributions until we absolutely have to," and continue to have a series of unfunded liabilities with plans in jeopardy as to their solvency.

What we would like to do is wait for the Friedland report and decide how this is going to be done. Until that is done, we have a moratorium.

I would like to spend one minute, because it has come up several times, to deal with the contribution holidays.

If members have investigated the federal tax statutes, I am sure they will know pension plans cannot maintain more than two years of their ongoing obligations in surplus before, under certain circumstances—

Mr. McClellan: The surplus should be paid out as inflation protection.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: That is something we are addressing, but in the meantime what happens is that they are compelled by federal statute—

Mr. McClellan: No, they are not.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: They absolutely are. There are provisions that in certain circumstances they are compelled to take a contribution holiday until they reduce that surplus; otherwise, it is taxable in the hands of the plan's sponsor. So we will not be supporting the amendment.

Mr. McClellan: If I may respond very briefly, and this will just take a second, the minister says that because of the tax laws, companies have to take the surplus. That is completely and utterly false. They can take the surplus and spend it for the benefit of the members of the pension plan by providing inflation adjustments and eliminate the surplus that way.

There is nothing in the Income Tax Act that says people like Conrad Black are obliged by law to steal the money from the pension plan. It is ridiculous for the minister to stand up and say that, and it is absolutely untrue. It illustrates again that the minister does not understand we are talking about the property that belongs to working people, not property that belongs to people like Conrad Black to be used for their own illicit benefit.

Mr. Ashe: Boy, what diatribe that is that comes out of the third party.

Mr. McClellan: What do you know about it?

Mr. Ashe: A lot more than the member knows about it, and that is exactly the problem. He does not know of what he speaks.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Ashe: I think where the problem comes with some of the members of the third party is that they are aware of the odd crooked union and they just presume each and every employer is crooked as well. That does not mean everybody is lily-white, that is for sure, on either side; but to draw the presumption that every employer and every employer pension plan is governed by crooks is just diatribe out of the mouths of those people to the left-hand side. I think it is ridiculous when we listen to that all the time. If there is any

concern out there, it is because of the misinformation put out by those members.

I only wish some of these members would look at the background of how and why some of these surpluses got there; and I am not suggesting all of them, by any stretch of the imagination. If members were to look at the history of many of these plans—something I am sure they have never been wont to do, because they get up with their rhetoric and never check on their facts—they would see there was a situation where employers were obligated, particularly in rougher times a number of years ago, to make substantial—substantial, I reiterate—additional contributions to keep the plan viable, over and above what was normally required in many instances to keep it actuarially sound. That is why there are extra moneys in there.

Sure, part of it comes about eventually because they have extraordinary returns through high interest rates and so on—those are issues that should be and I am sure will be addressed by the commission—but to suggest that all these are moneys that are not rightfully divisible between retirees, employees and employers is utter claptrap, to say the very least.

Again, we can look at some examples. I can cite one where the normal contribution by an employer is two and a half times what employees put in. I would suggest it is rather generous. But during a couple of years earlier this decade—not decades ago—they were required to put in four times what employees put in to keep the plan actuarially sound.

In my view, it is not doing anything wrong to recoup that amount of the extra one and a half times they put in during bad times. That is exactly what these people are saying is dishonest. In fact, I resent it as a Canadian and as an Ontarian that we have to listen to that claptrap all the time. We will not be supporting this BS.

The Deputy Chairman: Would you retract the word “BS,” please.

Mr. Ashe: That was a “blind statement.”

The Deputy Chairman: Translated that way, I will accept it.

All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's motion will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the nays have it.

Mr. McClellan: May we stack this vote until the completion of this bill?

The Deputy Chairman: Is there unanimous consent that the vote be stacked until the bill is completed?

Agreed to.

Vote stacked.

On section 80:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that section 80 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"80(1) No money shall be paid from surplus to an employer out of a pension fund.

"(2) Subsection 1 applies in respect of both a continuing pension plan and in respect of a pension plan that is partially or fully wound up."

Mr. McClellan: The arguments we made with respect to surplus pension funds on section 79 apply here as well, regardless of the high level of support for the Conrad Blacks of this world that is being expressed by the member for Durham West, and the ridiculous position stated by the minister that if there is a surplus built up, the only way to spend the surplus is to give it to the company. What a grotesque thing for a minister to say. Why can there not be laws that say a surplus that is built up has to be spent for the benefit of the members of the pension plan? That is what our amendments do.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: If I could just comment briefly, in the previous amendment I was talking about contribution holidays only. We are not talking about surpluses; we are talking about contribution holidays. I am not suggesting the only way they can get the surplus out is that way.

What I am suggesting is that in some cases there are contribution holidays imposed because all the benefits have been paid out. There is no problem. Let us say they even have indexing and every possible payment has been made to the employee, and there still are excess amounts in the plan. The federal income tax provides and mandates, under those conditions, a contribution holiday. That is all I was talking about.

To get back to this amendment to section 80, it is the same argument as we had before and we will not be supporting it.

1610

Mr. Ashe: We will not be supporting it either.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

On section 81:

Mr. McClellan: Section 81 is the third of a package of amendments dealing with multi-employer pension plans for which there appears

to be a consensus of support among all three parties.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that section 81 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

"(9) Where a group of members of a multi-employer pension plan are represented by a trade union and in accordance with section 56 of the Labour Relations Act the trade union ceases to represent the members and they become represented by a different trade union certified as their bargaining agent and become members of a different pension plan, the administrator of the first pension plan shall transfer to the administrator of the new pension plan all the assets and liabilities respecting those members who have elected under section 43 to transfer their entitlement to the new pension plan and the administrator of the new pension plan shall accept the transfer as assets and liabilities of the new plan.

"(10) Where a group of members of a multi-employer pension plan are represented by a trade union and in accordance with section 56 of the Labour Relations Act the trade union ceases to represent the members and they become represented by a different trade union certified as their bargaining agent and become members of a different pension plan and the members are not entitled to make an election under section 43 of the act, the administrator of the old pension plan shall transfer to the administrator of the new pension plan all assets and liabilities of the pension plan attributable to such members determined as prescribed and the administrator of the new pension plan shall accept them as assets and liabilities, determined as prescribed, of the new plan.

"(11) Subsections 9 and 10 do not apply where there is a reciprocal agreement respecting the pension plans."

Mr. McClellan: Very briefly, this simply makes it possible for the assets of a pension plan to be transferred from the membership of one pension plan to the membership of another pension plan when the bargaining agents have changed, pursuant to section 56 of the Labour Relations Act. This is the section that makes it possible to arrange an orderly transfer of pension plan assets, for example, from a parent international union to a successor independent Canadian union.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: This is another of the amendments on which we have been able to work out a compromise, and I will be happy to support the amendment.

Mr. Ashe: We will be supporting the amendment as well.

Motion agreed to.

Section 81, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 82 to 93, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 94:

Mr. McClellan: My next amendment is to section 94. I should explain that I had a number of amendments proposed which do not have, I understand, the support of members of the House. Because of certain time constraints, I will move the most important of these. If it turns out that it passes, I will ask for unanimous consent to go back to reopen other sections but, since there are some time constraints, I will move my amendment to section 94 and see how that goes.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subsections 94(2) and (3) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

“(2) The commission shall be composed of a head, one or more vice-heads and as many members equal in number representative of employers and employees respectively as the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers proper, all of whom shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

“(3) The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall designate one of the vice-heads to be the deputy head of the commission.”

Mr. McClellan: Bill 170 does not make any provision for representation on behalf of workers on the pension commission, even though the pension commission is charged with the responsibility of overseeing their property in the form of deferred wages. I find it just grotesque that we would be reforming the Pension Benefits Act, setting up a new pension commission and not making provision for equal representation by employers and employees.

I have proposed a model that is exactly the same as the Ontario Labour Relations Board, which has equal representation from management and labour, and I think that is the appropriate model. One could argue, of course, for the appropriate model to have full representation of worker representatives, since we are talking about the property of working people and their deferred wages. But this is a reasonable proposition that is being put forward for 50-50 representation.

It would avoid the kind of blind-sided bias that has characterized the current pension commission which, after all, authorized and approved Conrad Black's application for—

Hon. Mr. Scott: This is your last speech in the House I suppose.

Mr. McClellan: The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) would remember the exact number. I believe \$39 million of workers' money was appropriated by Conrad Black with the blessing and approval of the Pension Commission of Ontario.

This is like the president of the Toronto-Dominion Bank on the 45th floor authorizing the robbery of the teller's cage downstairs. It is grotesque that this happened and it is grotesque that the government is reappointing a commission that is structured to continue the same kind of blind-sided bias, a management bias, without adequate employee representation.

I urge the minister to take a second look—welcome to the 20th century—and add half of his pension commissioners from the employee side of the ledger.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: It is our position that it is undesirable to make the Pension Commission of Ontario into either an adversarial or a partisan body.

Mr. McClellan: Therefore, it should be exclusively management.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: No, it is not exclusively management. If the member takes a look at the representation on the board presently, there are two representatives of unions who are certainly not management; there are two actuaries who certainly have to be perceived as neutral; there is one layperson who is a consumer advocate; there is an economist; there are two representatives of management, and there is a chairperson.

1620

Mr. McClellan: I count nine to two.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: That is only the member's interpretation of it. I am suggesting to him that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has the authority to appoint people who are neither purely employee nor purely management. They can be brought from the broad spectrum of the community to bring expertise to that body. We will not be supporting the member's amendment.

Mr. Ashe: I would also agree that the present flexibility that is available in the appointment of the members of the commission has proved to be more than satisfactory. As the minister has just identified, I think there is a broad cross-section of people who can add their expertise and intelligence, hopefully, to that group.

I also do not concur that there should be complete flexibility in the size of that commission, which is what is alluded to for some

ridiculous fashion by this amendment. This means one could have, I suppose, as low as four and as high as infinity. Although the New Democratic Party members may visualize the fact that they may get on the executive-council appointment list from time to time, I suggest that they are going to have to fall within the numbers of five to nine if they wish to do so.

We will not be supporting the amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of the amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

The Deputy Chairman: Does the member have an amendment to subsection 94(8)?

Mr. McClellan: I have no further amendments.

Sections 95 to 119, inclusive, agreed to.

1632

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 79, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 20; nays 68.

Section 79 agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 80, which was negatived on the same vote.

Section 80 agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 94, which was negatived on the same vote.

Section 94 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with certain amendments.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

INTERIM SUPPLY (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for interim supply for the period commencing July 1, 1987, and ending October 31, 1987.

Mr. Harris: We will, of course, support this motion and we are delighted obviously—not delighted, but we do not want in any way to impede the ability of the government to pay the civil service of this province and to pay the bills. I might add that we feel there are some 6,000 more than are necessary to be paid throughout this period for which the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) is asking interim supply. However, that is not the

individuals' fault; that is the fault of this government.

We might also point out that we do not agree with some of the other items that will have to be covered under this supply motion for spending on the part of this government. However, having said that, there are contractual obligations, most notably those of the civil service, and I suggest we give speedy passage to this.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I made an undertaking to some of the honourable members that since they had made some remarks on interim supply during my absence, I would respond in detail. Since I can see there is something less than enthusiasm for that, I simply report to the members that the motion makes available \$10.2 billion, which will pay our day-to-day operating expenses, plus a little on the side, until the next time we meet.

Motion agreed to.

1640

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved second reading of Bill 85, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I will be fairly brief. I am proud to lead off the debate today on a measure for which this government is asking approval in principle, a measure that further ensures the rights of working men and working women to economic security and economic justice. It is a measure that I know all members are keenly interested in and I am looking forward to contributions from colleagues from all sides.

The human tragedy of being thrust into the job market after several years of employment with a company has been chronicled time and again across this province. Mass layoffs resulting from cutbacks and plant closings have also taken their toll on individual workers, their families and indeed on whole communities. The government proposals—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the members please be a little quieter. The chair cannot even hear the minister.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The government proposals we are debating today address these issues in a balanced, understanding and equitable manner. They seek to protect the individual victims of layoffs and business discontinuances and the communities in which the workers and businesses are located.

The bill provides terminated individual workers who have had five years' employment with

the right to severance pay. It greatly improves the economic security of workers who are employed by enterprises with an annual Ontario payroll of \$2.5 million. What this change means is that a worker, even if he or she works in an establishment or for a single company whose payroll is less than \$2.5 million, will receive severance pay so long as the payroll of that establishment or company and related establishments or companies is at least \$2.5 million. In those cases, the workers would be entitled to severance pay.

I know members of the House can think of individual circumstances in their own communities that have happened fairly recently. Under this measure, a worker who is laid off by such an enterprise for 35 weeks within a 52-week period will qualify for severance pay. Our proposals lengthen the notice-of-termination period an employer must give individual workers depending upon their length of employment, and indeed, makes those termination notices for individual workers the most progressive in this country.

In addition, a worker laid off for 35 weeks in a 52-week period would be entitled to termination pay if he or she had not been given notice. It ensures that workers will be told what is going on, and why, by placing a duty upon employers to give the worker, the community and the government information on why a closure is taking place, what the impact will be and what the employer is prepared to do to help the workers affected.

The proposals will also enable a worker to give two weeks' notice during the statutory notice period without jeopardizing his or her claim to statutory pay, a measure that is very important and would have proved very important in a number of recent situations; most notably, the Goodyear situation comes to mind.

The bill will increase and ensure benefits for workers who in the past have not been adequately protected. As members of this House know, this government has also indicated its intention to create an active early warning system capable of preventing or reducing closures and mass layoffs before they happen, with the appointment of an industrial restructuring commissioner.

The bill before this House today provides a balanced, reasoned approach that will ensure that workers who are losing their jobs receive fair and just treatment from employers. The provisions of this bill will put Ontario in front of any other jurisdiction on this continent when it comes to protecting workers from contemporary forces of

economic change that adversely affect them and their families.

The importance of these proposals cannot be overstated. The importance of these proposals, I suggest to the members of this House, is well known to the workers and to the leadership of organized labour in this province. They will provide the economic justice to which workers are entitled. The proposals before us address in a fair and balanced way the protection workers have a right to expect in Ontario in 1987, have a right to expect as of June 15, 1987. It is my hope that this assembly will give speedy passage to this bill.

Mr. Mackenzie: I rise on this bill to indicate that our caucus will be supporting it. We will be moving a small number of amendments and they are important ones. The intent is to put these on the record, because I think there are deficiencies in the bill the government has brought into the House, but not to attempt to hold up the bill, particularly because there are a large number of workers right across the province who at this very moment are looking at this Legislature for the possible relief at least some of them might have if this bill goes through the House.

I suggest that anybody who is thinking of not proceeding to clause-by-clause on this bill in the House should be prepared to answer to the workers at SunarHauserman in Rexdale, for example, who have been on the phone all afternoon, or to any number of other plants with workers who are waiting, who do not have the coverage and who just might gain it with this piece of legislation. If, as the rumours have it, my colleagues on the right are not prepared to proceed with clause-by-clause on this, they are doing a very tragic injustice to an awful lot of workers in Ontario.

The bill that is introduced does help. It is a step, but it seems all we are getting from this government is partial steps forward. We said earlier today, and I think we can say it again, that they do not seem to be prepared to move in a really effective way with an adequate bill that really does the job that is necessary in Ontario.

Under the new proposals, severance pay will be payable where a company's payroll exceeds \$2.5 million. That is approximately 110 workers earning the average industrial wage or 250 workers earning the minimum wage. However, more than 50 per cent of layoffs in Ontario occur in firms with fewer than 100 employees—more than 50 per cent; I underline that. Employees must still have worked for five years or more to qualify for severance pay. Statistics Canada

reports that as of March 1987, 53 per cent of the labour force in Ontario had been in their jobs for less than five years. Right there alone, we have eliminated 53 per cent of the workers who might otherwise have qualified for severance pay. No increase in the notice period for mass layoffs was announced, nor was there any requirement that firms justify their decision to close or effect a mass layoff.

I want to point out that the justification process or procedure was, to our party, a very important step, the only kind of protection we had or could have in Ontario to see that the workers in plants facing closure are getting a fair shake, that they are not getting a con job done on them, that it is not simply on the basis of a corporate rationalization where a company is both profitable and, in some cases, closing out operations simply to consolidate and even to eliminate competition.

I always thought that to the other two parties in the Legislature of this province, the idea of competition was something that was almost sacred, and yet we have had closures in Ontario that have been based on both corporate rationalization and eliminating competition. It seems to me there is something pretty tragic when that is allowed.

We do not envisage a public justification procedure as an opportunity to castigate employers or to force firms that are not viable to remain open. Some plant closings are going to remain unavoidable. However, the decisions to close plants or to lay off significant numbers of workers are made in an isolated manner, dictated by corporate decisions or calculations of internal costs and benefits. We in this party do not accept the notion that the only role left to the Legislature is to ameliorate the severe social and public consequences of private corporate decisions. We feel there is a public duty and responsibility to ensure that public scrutiny and control is exercised to either prevent or minimize social hardships.

We have found that the existence of this type of legislation in other jurisdictions has not been a deterrent for companies investing in those jurisdictions. Coupled with a number of positive benefits of investing in Ontario, we are not swayed by the corporate arguments that investment will drop and competitiveness will be hindered. As well, if there is a useful justification procedure in place, there can be time when decisions can be made that can have a number of important benefits.

Had we had this procedure in place we would today probably have had the porcelain plant, the

glass plant in the city of Hamilton, as one of the first worker-operated enterprises in Ontario, but in the fight there, we did not have the procedures. When we finally rallied the community and the workers, we could not get past a federal cabinet minister by the name of Sinc Stevens. That really shot down what I think could have been one of the most exciting episodes of worker involvement in plants, a viable operation where the worker option that was put together was a better option than the private-industry offer that was made and that the government accepted at that time.

1650

We feel as well, with more than 53 per cent of the workers in Ontario not having five years in their jobs, there should be a lowering of the time that allows you to qualify for severance pay. We do not think it makes sense to have long-term workers cut off at 26 weeks in terms of the ceiling that is put on the time. We think also that with the largest number of plant closures being plants of under 100 employees in Ontario, indeed under 50 employees, it would make sense to lower the figures of the number involved to qualify in a plant closure situation.

It seems to us these are not radical recommendations that are being made. They are positive recommendations in line with what is done in some of the free western world today. They are moves that would help us to protect the workers involved from the increasing problem of corporate concentration in this country and even from the takeover battles we see that lead to the loss of plants, the loss of jobs, the loss of workers.

We have some real difficulty in understanding why the government did not go further, but I have to say that like so many things that happen in this particular Legislature, at least it was a step. It was a step that would have helped a substantial number of employees. It is a step that should be taken here today, because there are literally hundreds and probably thousands of workers looking at it right now. Yet I understand there is a good possibility this will not get to committee of the whole House. To me, that would be a tragedy. If it does not, I can guarantee that people are going to answer for that decision in Ontario.

I cannot continue or finish without making one other observation. If my colleagues on the right do not allow this to go through clause by clause here today, they are not totally and solely responsible for denying the rights to workers in this province. They will be denying protection to an awful lot of workers, but I want to say also that we just got this bill in the past two or three days

from this government. Given what they have put in the bill, they could have brought it in long before this and we could have had it through this House so those workers would have had that kind of protection.

I want to make it very clear that the blame ends up on both sides of this House. This government, in its refusal to move sooner—a year and a half, almost two years, we waited; this was one of the accord items. Now that we could have it through and protect a sizeable number of workers, my colleagues on the right are afraid to move this thing ahead. I do not know why. There is no real corporate opposition to it. I think their own leader could probably tell them that from calls. That is the situation we face.

I want to indicate my support for this bill. I hope we can send it to committee of the whole House and deal with it here this afternoon so we can give the protection to the workers in Ontario.

Mr. Harris: I want to say a few words on this bill. Let me concur with the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) who indicated that we are dealing with a bill that has just been tabled in the past few days. Last week, I guess, it was tabled and probably printed some time last week. Not very many members have had an opportunity to take very much of a look at it. That is exactly the problem that our party and the public are once again facing.

What we really have in reality from this particular bill, as was mentioned by the member for Hamilton East, is an item that could have been introduced two years ago. Certainly from what is in the bill, there is no reason, after taking office—maybe two years is long enough; maybe they could have studied for a month and come up with what is in this bill.

We have a government party, the leader of which has said to his Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye): “I may want to call an election this August, not because of any other reason than that is when I think I want to call it.” Perhaps the reason he may want to call it is because he does not know how to govern. He has had an accord agreement with the third party that I have not agreed with, either the principle or the items. I will say this, it has given direction to a government that has not shown any indication it knows how to govern, whether it be in a majority or a minority position. Obviously, in a minority position it has given them a direction and a blueprint to follow and spelled it out for them.

Perhaps the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has said to his Minister of Labour, “I am afraid we do not have the ability or the expertise to be able to

govern this province under the existing setup.” That certainly has not been the case from any other Premiers that we know in the past. Of course, that is one of the measures the public would want to take a look at: Does this administration have any ability to govern on its own? If the Liberals are afraid the public will sense they do not have any ability to govern on their own, then the thing to do is to try to figure out as many silly excuses for an election as possible, so they do not get a look at their inability to govern.

Consequently, I suggest to the members that the Premier went to the Minister of Labour and said: “Look, you’ve had two years. I know we agreed we didn’t want to do this. We weaseled and we cajoled and we did everything we could to get out of living up to the accord on this, but look, we’re going to adjourn at the end of June. Could you, Minister of Labour, draft up some silly little bill that shows the intent? We can do up our press releases as we always do on these things. People will think we care, and I can say I dealt with this accord item.”

So one week before we adjourn, we have a bill introduced.

Mr. Mackenzie: That’s not far off.

Mr. Harris: The member for Hamilton East says, “Not far off.” Let me suggest as well that we have had other examples of this. Last year about this time we had Bill 11, one of the biggest shemozzles. It is with regret that some time was not taken on Bill 11 last year.

We were faced with a similar situation. The government House leader turned the air conditioning off in the whole building and in the Legislature, made us all sit here and sweat and said, “If you guys want to go home for the summer, we have to have Bill 11.”

Hon. Mr. Nixon: That’s what Winkler used to do.

Mr. Harris: Yes, you learned that from Tom Wells. The member is quite right. I have always suspected that, since I have been here, since 1981.

Let me say that was an example of a bill that went through too hastily and caused a multitude of problems afterwards. There have been other examples: Bill 190 of the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston)—I am delighted he is in the chamber today—was a bill they just tried to deal with too quickly to say, “We are concerned.”

Mr. Andrewes: On and on and on.

Mr. Harris: On and on and on. Withdraw the bill. Do this; do that.

Bill 98 is coming up. What does Bill 98 do? Bill 98 corrects a government amendment to one of our bills. The government said, "We need this amendment." They got the amendment. We obviously may be somewhat to blame. We did not take a good enough look at it, I guess. But we assumed the Minister of Health, with all his \$10 billion of resources, knew what he was doing. Now he is back saying: "Oh, I was a little too hasty. We ought to have another bill. We have to change this bill."

That is not the way to proceed with legislation in this chamber. I am surprised as well that the members of the third party have come forward. Their reaction when this bill was introduced last week, all I heard, was: "What a weak-kneed, lily-livered, no-good bill. After two years, that is all they could do." They said this bill does nothing. It does not change anything. It is not a good bill.

Well now, a week later, I heard from the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel)—not from Sudbury East; that is a Freudian slip, because he starts to sound like the member for Sudbury East at times—from the member for Hamilton East that this is urgent. What was a "lily-livered, no-good bill" a week ago, we have to have today. We have to have second reading today. We have to have the committee of the whole House today. We have to have hearings today. We have to have third reading. We have to have it all today.

1700

That is not the way to come up with good legislation. We have had a number of calls since the bill was introduced. The first calls we started to get were from the unions, "Jeez, this bill needs lots of amendments. It is not a good bill. It does not do this. It does not do that."

Our reaction: "Look, it has only been introduced. Sometimes it takes this government two years to deal with a bill. Not to worry, boys, it has just been introduced. You will get an opportunity. I am sure the New Democratic Party will want you to have an opportunity to come in. We would support that, and I sense the government would."

Then a few days later this feeling came out that: "This is all we are going to get. It is no good, but it is all we are going to get."

I confess that some of the same unions have called my office today and said: "It is no good, but it is the best we are going to get. Could you pass it?" I said, "What do you mean, it is the best you are going to get?" They said, "You are going to adjourn and there is going to be an election." I said: "It might be. Are you worried that a new

government is going to come back and not support this? All three parties are going to support this today. We are going to support it." They did not know the answer to that.

I said, "Are you worried?" They said, "The Liberals may not reintroduce it." I said, "Well, do not vote for them, then."

A number of businesses, as well, have expressed some concerns. They have said, "We would like the opportunity to come in and comment on this legislation."

Unfortunately—and I regret that it appears to be by ourselves—we are going to provide the opportunity to the unions. We are going to provide the opportunity for business. We are going to ask that this bill go out to committee. We may be sitting here for another month, the way the government House leader and the Premier run this place.

There may be an opportunity. We could place ads next week and the hearings could start about the third week of July. I think it deserves that opportunity.

All that had to be done was to introduce this bill a month ago, and we would now be having a routine third reading; even three weeks ago, we might have had a third reading. But they have insisted, perhaps because it is so flawed, they did not want anybody to look at it; or perhaps—my first suggestion—it was one of those last-minute things where the Premier said to the Minister of Labour: "If I call an election, I have to say I did something on this. Dream up some silly thing and introduce it, and that will be the end of it."

We are in support of the principle of the legislation. We will be voting for that principle. We would like to indicate to all who are here that if, as we suspect, the Premier takes the line that he is afraid he does not have the ability or the horses to be able to carry on governing and he tries to go to the people, when we come back—and we may not be the government, but if we are the government after an election—we will be introducing similar legislation. We will be asking for input from the various interest groups that will have interest in this legislation and we will pass a far more meaningful bill than what is trying to be jammed down here today.

Let me tell members as well that if, after reflection, the Premier decides: "Do you think the jig is up? Do you think they realize I want an election because I am afraid I cannot govern?" and he does not call an election, we will have had the hearings, we will have a much better bill and we will have it in the fashion in which all good legislation proceeds in this Legislature.

We will support this. We have served notice that we would like this to go out to the standing committee on resources development.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Let me start by saying that I look forward, even at this late hour, to some sanity beginning to come over the party opposite, so that later this afternoon we can entertain the amendments from my friend the member for Hamilton East, who has served notice that his party, while recognizing the steps forward in this bill, has some difficulty with some areas of the bill. They are very clear to the member for Hamilton East, the areas in which his party disagrees. The bill is extremely straightforward.

The member for Hamilton East mentioned this in passing. The House leader for the official opposition has spoken about the timing of the bill. The bill was brought into this House some 11 days ago, has been printed for several days and indeed, that legislation is the product of months of consultation. If the member had talked with any union leaders or if he had talked with any business leaders, he would have known that the final consultations have been going on for months on this legislation and that indeed the bill attempts to reflect some of the important things this government heard.

Having heard the sheer hypocrisy which came from the House leader for the official opposition

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I object.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I will withdraw the word "hypocrisy."

An hon. member: That is what it was, Mr. Speaker, just the same.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: The member is not in his seat. He has withdrawn, has he?

Mr. Mancini: I will withdraw it just the same.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I now understand completely why the Labour critic for the official opposition could not bring himself to offer any comments on this legislation. Indeed, I remember the Labour critic—and I want to say some complimentary things about that critic, because he is apparently one of the few members of that party who supports this legislation in general—did not think it went far enough.

That was before his leader went outside the House and said we were not going to have any more of this anti-business legislation. That is what the leader of the official opposition said.

Here you had the Labour critic in the House saying it did not go far enough and you had the leader of his party saying it was anti-business.

Mr. Davis: Are you saying it is anti-business?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I say to my friend the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis), I am quoting the leader of the official opposition.

I begin to understand why my friend the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) is not in the House at this hour. I am beginning to understand. Would any member want to be here standing in his place, being from the community which has gone through the difficulties that community has had with places like Massey-Ferguson? Would you want to be in your place, Mr. Speaker, forcing a piece of legislation to committee? For what? So we can waste time? Would you want to do that, or would you want to get on with the job of protecting workers?

An hon. member: You know he is not in the House because of a statement your minister made—a misstatement of the truth.

Mr. Davis: Because you people have as much regard for the truth as a tomcat has for—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Scarborough Centre is disturbing the House.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I want to say to the good reverend from Scarborough Centre, being that this is his first term, that he might look back in the Hansard debates of June 1981. I see my friend the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) has a smile coming over his face. He was the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour of the day, now the distinguished chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board. In June of that year, the previous government brought in Bill 95, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Within that legislation was a new concept, something called severance pay. The law was flawed. It was riddled with loopholes, loopholes closed in these amendments. Nevertheless, the new concept was there—praiseworthy. The members can look back at my remarks in which I supported the principle of that new concept, but did the government of the day see any necessity to send an entirely new concept, never before brought into North America, to a committee? Oh no, it can be handled in committee of the whole House, no need to have public input on a new principle, on a new concept, no need to have consultation.

1710

But now here we are in 1987 and they are over there. As we seek to close the door on the loopholes left open by the Progressive Conserva-

tive Party, as we seek to enhance this legislation, as we seek to bring a fivefold improvement in the number of workers to be covered by the severance provisions, as we seek to improve the termination notice, as we seek to bring the kind of disclosure that workers want, there is the party that is going to bring that to a halt. If there are workers who are not covered because of the refusal of that party over there to get on with this job, then it seems to me those workers will remember for a very long time the actions that may occur here this afternoon.

That party, 11 days after the introduction of the bill, claims that it has no idea what is going on. The morning after the introduction of the bill, I happened to speak at a conference at which there were a number of labour lawyers—both management and union labour lawyers, management people and trade union people present; they all understood full well this legislation and they were very supportive of it.

I say to my friend the member for Scarborough Centre and to the members of the Progressive Conservative caucus that they should have returned their phone calls today. The leader of the official opposition should have spoken to the president of the Ontario Federation of Labour and the head of district 6 of the United Steelworkers. If he had spoken to the leaders of the labour unions, he would have known they wanted this bill and they wanted this bill to be passed today in this place. They realize it is good legislation, progressive legislation; indeed, it is the finest legislation anywhere in North America. They know it and all the members of this House know it as well.

This is not some silly little bill, as my friend the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) has suggested. It increases the protection of workers in this province fivefold in terms of severance. It increases the termination notice. It provides for disclosure to workers, to communities; and indeed a means for consultations when layoffs and closures are proposed to occur.

It is the most progressive legislation anywhere in North America, and it is worth repeating. I say to my friend from Durham that it is worth repeating. I hope the members of the official opposition will reflect on that. I hope they will allow this bill to move forward. I hope they will allow for workers in this province, whom we can protect, to be protected in a way I would have thought all of us would want to occur.

Mr. Ashe: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The minister may want to correct the record. I

think he referred to first reading 11 days ago; I think he will find it is 10.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. That is not a point of order.

Mr. Davis: Right on. Maybe it's nine. Bob has some accounting—

Mr. Morin: This is the 11th day.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: This is the 11th hour.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Mr. Wrye has moved second reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, we would ask that this bill be referred to the standing committee on resources development.

The Deputy Speaker: In excess of 20 members having stood in their places, this bill will be referred to a standing committee.

Bill ordered for standing committee on resources development.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: May I have the approval of the House under standing order 63 for the five-day rule to be waived?

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Wrye has moved asking for unanimous consent under standing order 63.

An hon. member: What five-day rule?

The Deputy Speaker: It cannot be considered in standing committee until more than five days after it has been committed. The minister is asking a waiver of that, i.e., that it be committed and dealt with in the standing committee in fewer than five days.

Agreed to.

BEES ACT

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved second reading of Bill 96, An Act to revise the Bees Act.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The Bees Act provides for inspection of honey bees and control of honey bee diseases. The registration of colonies and inspection of bees under this legislation have for many years served the industry well. Changes to the legislation are now needed because three honey bee diseases and pests not found in Ontario threaten to become established here to the detriment of the commercial beekeeping community.

The honey bee tracheal mite is widespread in the United States while other pests are advancing—

Ms. Fish: Can we see the file folder again?

Mr. Breagh: Would you hold up the file folder?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The minister must be heard by someone, by Hansard if no one in the chamber. Will you please keep the noise down.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The honey bee tracheal mite is widespread in the United States while other pests are advancing at a rapid rate towards the United States from South America and Central America. The federal government banned honey bee imports into eastern Canada from the United States last year to protect the domestic industry from these diseases and pests.

An amendment to provincial legislation is required now to support the federal action. Amendment to the Bees Act will strengthen the ministry's disease control by requiring a permit to import package and queen bees from outside the province, specifically from the western provinces where United States bees continue to be imported.

Other proposed amendments would improve the administration of the apiary inspection program. These include inspectors being given authority to take samples of bees and equipment to identify any disease outbreak. A new person would be appointed to improve the mechanism for beekeepers to appeal decisions of apiary inspectors.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food would also be given authority to establish quarantine zones. Beekeepers would not be allowed to move bees or equipment within or through these zones. Maximum fines for any contravention of the act would be increased to \$1,000 and \$5,000. Existing maximum levies are \$50 and \$100.

The Ontario beekeeping industry accounts for gross farm receipts of \$8 million a year and the pollination benefits from commercial beekeeping are many times that amount. This important industry must be protected from imported health threats. We feel confident the proposed amendments to the act will furnish this protection and we wait upon the favour of the House for support.

Mr. Stevenson: I gather the bee the minister was holding up over there had to be a yellow-jacket. I am not sure it was a honey bee; but anyway.

This is another situation of a bill that was just introduced one or two days ago and brought into the House without giving us much opportunity to examine it. In correspondence from the Ontario Beekeepers' Association as far back as January, the association was asking that this bill be passed

as quickly as possible. They were wondering why the government was moving so slowly on it because this has been a concern.

1720

The last previous change to the Bees Act was in 1980. Certainly, with the growing industry, an industry that keeps attracting new people into it, there is concern with health matters and some degree of control in the industry. There are some beekeepers who are quite concerned about this particular bill, and I have a letter from a constituent of the member for Brock (Mr. Partington) stating his great concern over certain sections of the bill.

I hope the beekeepers who are concerned can deal with the Ontario Beekeepers' Association and with the minister and resolve any points that they feel are not adequate under the current situation. With that, we will be supporting the passage of this bill.

Mr. Hayes: Very briefly, in the spirit of expediency and knowing the importance of this bill, how important it is to preserve the beehive industry in this province, I would just like to say we support the Bees Act and hope we can move right along and get to third reading quickly on it.

Mr. Sterling: I am very much concerned with the haste in which this bill has been brought forward. While the beekeepers' association represents the large commercial operations, there are many people in this province who keep bees, particularly in eastern Ontario. Their number far exceeds the number of people who are involved in the large commercial endeavours.

It is a very important activity which takes place. It supports many other agricultural endeavours because of the pollinations the bees provide, particularly at this time of the season when we think of strawberry and raspberry patches, which depend very heavily on a bee population being closely associated with those particular endeavours.

This act gives strong powers to inspectors to go in and order certain things to take place in a particular beehive or in a particular area where there are a number of beehives. Since yesterday, I have had an opportunity to talk to some of the beekeepers in my area. They are very much concerned with the dramatic increase in the penalties proposed in this piece of legislation.

There are many people who are involved in a minor way, if only with a couple of hives that they attend to. They cannot be expected to know the provisions of the Bees Act. That, coupled with the fact that inspectors are given wide latitude to trespass on property, undertake the

burning of hives and undertake a number of other steps, albeit with some kind of notice, is a matter people cannot and do not know all the facts about.

I am strongly supportive of the provisions which control the entry of bees from other parts of Canada and the United States into Ontario. Perhaps that offence alone would be the one that would require such high penalties. The problem many people are going to react to in this particular piece of legislation is the high fines related to what I would term very minor violations of the law.

While many people would treat this act in a trivial way, I take the act as a serious piece of legislation. We would have preferred to have a little time to at least talk to more of our people back home in order to put forward constructive suggestions in terms of dealing with some of the issues raised in this.

I find much difficulty with subsection 5(3) with regard to the kind of notice which is given to a beekeeper if the inspector makes an order. It seems convoluted. It seems that it could not be understood. I would have preferred that we had had an opportunity and time to put this in committee of the whole House to address not only the notice provision but also the penalty provision.

I think the minister should know that there are many beekeepers out there who are not going to be satisfied with this particular act, and I am talking on behalf of those people who are not deeply involved with the association.

That notwithstanding, because of the request of my House leader that we deal with this in an expeditious manner, I will not force it into committee of the whole House, as I could, and would ask that perhaps in the next session we have an opportunity to bring the piece of legislation forward and discuss it in a full manner.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I want to thank my honourable colleagues for the support they have given to this bill.

I have met several times with the beekeepers' association about the bill and what the association wanted to see in the bill. My staff has also met with the beekeepers' association. It seems to be in general agreement with what we are endeavouring to do with this bill.

The honourable member was a little concerned that the inspectors are given too much power. The inspectors are only given one new authority they do not have under the present bill. That new authority is to take samples for examination for

the tracheal mite and other diseases. This is important, as bees can quickly spread the disease to neighbouring hives.

The honourable member was also concerned about the increase in the level of fines. The current fine levels are \$10 to \$50 for a first offence, \$25 to \$100 or 30 days' imprisonment for a subsequent offence. A substantial increase in fines was needed to present a disincentive to contravening the act and threatening the Ontario beekeeping industry with damaging diseases.

Again, I have to say that we have met with the beekeepers' association. I trust they were speaking for the beekeepers around the province, and they were in general agreement with what we have included in this bill. I thank the members once again for their support.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Elston moved second reading of Bill 98, An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Bill 98 was introduced yesterday. It deals with changes to legislation that was passed under the provisions of private member's Bill 52, which received third reading in the House on May 19.

The current legislation requires that the patient, or the person authorized to consent on behalf of the patient, be informed of the benefits or possible adverse reactions to the vaccination. This has raised concerns among health care professionals and our public health units that the information requirements are too broad and too vague and could be interpreted to include every possible reaction from the most serious to the most insignificant. In other words, it places a difficult, unenforceable burden upon health care professionals.

Bill 98 amends the information provision such that the patient or the person authorized to consent on behalf of the patient must be informed about all material risks associated with immunization. Material risk is a concept understood by health care professionals and the courts and represents a standard by which the information requirements can be measured. It means that patients must be informed about all serious risks associated with immunization, no matter how remote the likelihood of such reactions occurring.

I believe this amendment is a major and necessary improvement over the wording of the

current legislation and I urge the members to assist with its speedy passage through the House.

1730

Mr. Jackson: Given that this bill was tabled only yesterday and given that there are no compendiums and no copies of the bill put in the places for the members to read, I imagine only about eight members of this Legislature have had circularized to them the details of this bill, yet we are being called upon today to do this vote.

In that regard, the minister's bill purports to change six words in the old bill and to replace them with five words he has created, we assume on the basis of some counsel from the Attorney General (Mr. Scott). Would the minister please explain to this House what is meant by "cause the patient," replacing "inform the patient"? I have received conflicting legal opinions as to whether that means an actual conversation and exchange will occur person to person between the person administering the agent and the parent or the person receiving the vaccine.

My second question is, did the minister consult with the Attorney General as to whether there was an alternative such as the replacement of the words "known adverse reactions," which would provide the legal protections the Ontario Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Protective Association cogently present to him?

Finally, would the minister please explain for the record why he is unable or unwilling at this point to put in regulations the terms and the parameters this program was supposedly proceeding on the basis of when it was approved by all parties in this House and received his support, back as early as February 16?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Briefly, with respect to the first question, I do not know the conflicting advice the member has received. I think the advice could be in the form of a patient speaking directly to someone or there could be pamphlet material as well. He is holding it up there. I presume the conflicting advice is that there could be various kinds of advice offered, both orally and on paper. I tend to think that causing a person to be informed would include both those types of advice.

The member asked whether I talked to the Attorney General about the phrase "known adverse reactions." We did not discuss this with the Attorney General, but of course we do have people from the Attorney General's department on our ministry staff who act as legal counsel for us. They provided us with the backup information with respect to what is available for us to put in word form. They are the ones who advised

with respect to what is known in the courts in terms of measurements of the types of standards, I guess, about which I spoke earlier, the test of material risks.

The third question was about regulations. We were advised through our legal department that this is the preferred way of proceeding to make it much more precise in legislative form in terms of being able to measure according to our common law the duty placed on professionals within the system.

Mr. Jackson: I appreciate the response from the Minister of Health regarding this 11th-hour amendment, given that members of this House have not had an opportunity to examine it; however, I have for the last 24 hours, and I am distressed by the lack of consultation that it appears went into this amendment.

Certainly, there has been no consultation with the Association for Vaccine-Damaged Children, which has provided most of the impetus for this bill, and very limited consultation with my colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. Pierce), who introduced the amendment. Unfortunately, he has to be at a district health council meeting in Thunder Bay in approximately 20 minutes and was unable to be in the House today.

The minister has known about this bill since last year. He agreed to send it to committee on February 16. A proclamation was made in April with respect to this bill. Now it is June 25 and all we have had from the minister is an indication that there will be no regulations, there will be no guidance and there will be no direction from his ministry with respect to assisting the Ontario Medical Association and the families of children who have yet to be immunized in Ontario. He has provided no assurances publicly or elsewhere with respect to assisting with regulations.

On June 15, when the minister was attending his now famous fund-raiser, a series of 10 questions in Orders and Notices was tabled in this House to which the minister has chosen not to respond. They clearly set out questions of him with respect to promises that were made during the course of public hearings on this bill, promises that were made on his behalf by his parliamentary assistant, the member for York East (Ms. Hart).

It would now appear that the minister has made a 180-degree turn as a result of the amendments he tabled yesterday and wishes us to have the final vote today. He is removing from the old bill, which is the law today, the clear wording that a physician or his authorized person informs the patient, and he is replacing that with "cause

Minister of Health has brought forward, and they are quite satisfied with those changes.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Very briefly, I do want to make a couple of comments in response to the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson). I am actually surprised and quite shocked at the approach the member is taking on this issue.

When we dealt with Bill 52 in committee, one of the major advantages of that bill we saw was that there was going to be reporting of adverse effects and that there would be data kept and we would have better information on the whole field.

The bottom line of what the member from Burlington is saying is that children should not be vaccinated.

Interjection.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I think it is incredibly irresponsible for a member of the Legislature in 1987 in Ontario to say that children should not be vaccinated. We know from debates—

Mr. Jackson: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Those words do not appear anywhere in Hansard this afternoon and he knows that. Ask him to correct the record.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is not a point of privilege. Every member has a right to explain his point of view.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The fact is that the member is saying we are going to give people information, and I totally agree that people should be given information about possible adverse effects of vaccinations; but at the same time he is saying that if this information is not provided, something is going to happen if parents are not aware of the possible risks. What if they are aware? What if parents are totally aware of the risks?

We are saying that information should be made available. What is the alternative in Ontario? We have mandatory vaccination for children. Is the member suggesting it should not be mandatory and parents therefore should be told the risks? We are agreeing they should be told, but should they then be given the option that their children should not necessarily be vaccinated? Is he going to take on his shoulders the responsibility for children who may die from one of the diseases they can be protected from by vaccination in Ontario?

The message clearly coming out of the mouth of the member for Burlington South is that children should not be subject to the risk of vaccination but they should be subject to the substantially larger risk of disease that vaccina-

tion prevents in Ontario. I am shocked and disappointed that the Conservative Party would voice that when it was its Minister of Health, supported by the opposition parties, who brought in mandatory vaccination in Ontario.

1750

I want to make one final point. We obviously will be supporting this amendment. I am not thrilled with the process that has been followed in the last couple of weeks. I think the minister and his staff have to begin to learn that mistakes like this cannot be made. We saw mistakes made in mental health legislation, we saw mistakes made in nursing home legislation, and the list goes on.

The fact of the matter is that if this amendment is not passed today or before the Legislature breaks, we could see a slowing down and possibly even the grinding to an end of vaccinations in this province, because physicians and other practitioners who give these vaccinations will not want to take the risk that was provided in Bill 52.

As a final point, I think this Legislature is eventually going to have to come to grips with the fact that if it is going to be serious about private members' bills, as it was with Bill 52, there might in fact have to be a better process.

It used to be that private members' bills never became law. That was a bad process. I think it is now appropriate that the Legislature take private members' bills very seriously, but perhaps we should look at a committee process that takes them seriously with the understanding that they could very well become law, therefore they have to be studied much more closely and much more carefully so that we do not have any more blunders like we had in Bill 52, which put kids in this province at risk.

Mr. Jackson: I would like to correct the record. The member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) would seem to try to mislead this House by putting words in my mouth. The member knows absolutely full well that at no point have I been against vaccinations. If he were aware of the process of vaccinations in this province, he would know that every child gets vaccinated at around two months. If parents do not know about adverse reactions, they proceed with the second injection at four months, the third injection at six months and so on.

The whole purpose of keeping the public informed is so that people can participate with and consult with their physicians, so that they can share with them, "My child had an adverse reaction." The standard procedure in Ontario is not to have the second vaccine administered. The

member knows that is the whole point. The number of cases that were brought before our committee where children were dying based on the second injection, which was the lethal dose, was well documented. No one can anticipate in all cases, in spite of the fact that Connaught Laboratories gives guidance to doctors as to certain cases where a vaccine should be avoided.

The member knows the whole purpose is to have the adverse reactions recorded, but we have had no commitment from this minister that he will record the information. He has said to the Ontario Medical Association: "You guys keep your records. You guys do your reporting mechanism. Do not keep me involved in this thing." How does a parent report an adverse reaction if he does not know what an adverse reaction is in the first place? That is the point.

Children should continue to be vaccinated. If a child receives a lethal dose in the first instance and dies, the member knows the death record shows that he died of encephalitis. Even two hours after the vaccine, they do not put on the death certificate that is the cause of death. That is the kind of thing we want corrected in Ontario today. I am not against vaccines.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The member for Burlington South is trying to have it both ways. All one has to do is read Hansard and his comments. The point he was making is very clear, and it is an embarrassment to any progressive legislator who knows anything about public health in Ontario.

Mr. Andrewes: I want to support the member for Windsor-Riverside in his comments with respect to private members' bills.

I believe this bill was first introduced in July or June 1985. It was debated during private members' hour prior to the summer recess in 1985. At one point, it was referred to the select committee on health, which had yet to be convened, had yet to be organized and had yet to be endorsed by this Legislature. It subsequently found its way to the standing committee on social development, where we held two or three days of public hearings and debated the various clauses of the bill.

Throughout this process, there seemed to be a great deal of hesitancy on the part of the Ministry of Health to get involved in this legislation, and I think that has added to the concerns that have arisen as a result of the passage of this bill. It was rather interesting that the subject being debated today, the actual requirement that physicians inform parents of children of the possibility of adverse reactions, was a clause drafted and added at the request of the parliamentary assistant to the

minister, who was a participant in that committee.

What really needs to happen, of course, out of all this discussion, is that at some point in time there be undertaken the development of some professional standards in the inoculation/vaccination program. The Ontario Medical Association indicated to the ministry over the last week or two its desire that these standards be developed by way of regulation. I assume they were told no, as we were told no, that this was intrusive. But we have not been given any substantive reason why regulations under this act cannot be developed.

Certainly, the physicians want to retain professional discretion. It is not wise for us to directly intrude into that professional discretion, but at the same time this act, by virtue of its passage in this Legislature, does intrude. The amendments now require the informing of patients and their committees. Those amendments, as I have mentioned, have been put forward by the ministry, so I think it is very clear.

I am not sure I have the rapt attention of the whole House in this debate.

Mr. Harris: I am with you.

Mr. Andrewes: I know my colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) is listening carefully.

I think there is some obligation on the part of the Minister of Health to develop some guidelines or standards for the vaccination program, through legislation or regulation or at his request to, say the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario that this be done. I hope the minister will consider and move towards this development. I want to indicate for my own part that we will be supporting this bill.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I just have brief comments. With respect to the difficulties of dealing with private members' bills, I would join my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside and my colleague the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) and indicate that perhaps there is a better way of dealing with this. I know both the honourable gentlemen would probably like to acknowledge the fact that during the clause-by-clause debate there were several amendments to this piece of legislation, including the item about advance notice, about which neither the OMA nor a number of people had an opportunity to make comment.

The difficulty of passing the legislation in a form altered in clause-by-clause analysis is that it produces a bill the effect of which none of us is sure about until there is adequate time to review

and understand from a professional's point of view the impact of all the sections taken together in their broadest form.

The information was brought to my attention last week and we moved to try to come up with a situation which would assist professionals to feel that there was ample opportunity for them to use their professional judgement and wisdom in giving advice, and the result is the bill we have here today.

The question of the point of "shall inform" and "shall cause to be informed" is a matter of degree. The question is whether "shall inform" really does mean person-to-person, verbal communication. It is my understanding that in fact "shall inform" might very well mean delivering something as well.

I can say it is my understanding that all physicians are quite concerned about the problems dealt with in respect to vaccination and that the public health people are likewise concerned. I know that the process of providing a heightened awareness of the difficulties which face people who have vaccinations is such that people will take the time to provide the information required.

I agree that we must have vaccination. It is essential for our public health, and I am pleased

to hear that the two parties, in their official representations, have agreed to support this bill.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Just before adjournment, I want to inform the House that when we meet on Monday, we will be dealing in committee of the whole House with Bill 10, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act, in the name of Mr. Reville, and Bill 188, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act, in the name of Mr. Ashe.

We will also deal with Bill 23, An Act to provide for greater Certainty in the Reconciliation of the Personal Interests of Members of the Assembly and the Executive Council with their Duties of Office. I have it en français if members want it.

If time permits, we would invite the members to participate in the budget debate or any other matters that by mutual agreement we want to pursue.

The House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

CONTENTS

Thursday, June 25, 1987

Private members' public business

Riding of Parry Sound , resolution 20, Mr. Eves, Mr. Foulds, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Bernier, Mr. Wildman, agreed to	1695
Transit services , resolution 21, Miss Stephenson, Mr. Warner, Ms. Caplan, Mr. McFadden, Mr. Breaugh, agreed to	1706

Members' statements

Assistance for the disabled , Mr. Eves	1716
Political activity by crown employees , Mr. Philip	1716
Multiculturalism , Mr. Callahan	1716
Proposal for waterway , Mr. Runciman	1717
Irradiation of food , Mrs. Grier	1717
International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show , Mr. McKessock	1717
Fishing licence revenues , Mr. J. M. Johnson	1717

Statements by the ministry

Roman Catholic secondary schools , Hon. Mr. Scott, Hon. Mr. Conway	1718
Social assistance , Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1719
Multiculturalism , Hon. Ms. Munro	1720

Responses

Roman Catholic secondary schools , Mr. Grossman	1721
Social assistance , Mr. Jackson	1721
Roman Catholic secondary schools , Mr. Rae	1722
Social assistance , Mr. R. F. Johnston	1722
Multiculturalism , Mr. Rae	1722

Oral questions

IDEA Corp. , Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson, Mr. Gillies, Mr. Pope	1723
Automobile insurance , Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Kwinter, Mr. Swart	1725
Multiculturalism , Mr. Rae, Hon. Ms. Munro	1727
IDEA Corp. , Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Gillies	1728
Niagara River water quality , Mrs. Grier, Hon. Mr. Bradley	1729
Water supply , Mr. Epp, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1730
IDEA Corp. , Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1730
Labour dispute , Mr. Mackenzie, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1731
Infrastructure renewal , Mr. Morin, Hon. Mr. Bradley	1732
PEC Financial Corp. , Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1732
Mining accident , Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Scott	1733
Multiculturalism , Mr. D. R. Cooke, Hon. Ms. Munro	1733

Petition

Transit services , Ms. Caplan, tabled	1734
--	------

First readings

Prepaid Funeral Services Act , Bill 103, Hon. Mr. Kwinter, agreed to	1734
Funeral Services Amendment Act , Bill 104, Hon. Mr. Elston, agreed to	1734

Second readings

Hamilton Jewish Communal Projects Act , Bill Pr9, Mr. Ward, agreed to	1734
Port Stanley Terminal Rail Incorporated Act , Bill Pr18, Mr. Reycraft, agreed to	1734
Township of Chapleau Act , Bill Pr19, Mr. Laughren, agreed to	1734
City of Barrie Act , Bill Pr45, Mr. Rowe, agreed to	1734
City of London Act , Bill Pr51, Ms. E. J. Smith, agreed to	1734
City of Toronto Act , Bill Pr57, Mr. Offer, agreed to	1734
Institute of Municipal Assessors Act , Bill Pr63, Mr. Cousens, agreed to	1734
Ontario Institute of the Purchasing Management Association of Canada Inc. Act , Bill Pr65, Mr. McFadden, agreed to	1735
Windsor Youth Marching and Concert Band Act , Bill Pr68, Mr. Newman, agreed to . .	1735

Third readings

Hamilton Jewish Communal Projects Act , Bill Pr9, Mr. Ward, agreed to	1734
Port Stanley Terminal Rail Incorporated Act , Bill Pr18, Mr. Reycraft, agreed to	1734
Township of Chapleau Act , Bill Pr19, Mr. Laughren, agreed to	1734
City of Barrie Act , Bill Pr45, Mr. Rowe, agreed to	1734
City of London Act , Bill Pr51, Ms. E. J. Smith, agreed to	1734
City of Toronto Act , Bill Pr57, Mr. Offer, agreed to	1734
Institute of Municipal Assessors Act , Bill Pr63, Mr. Cousens, agreed to	1734
Ontario Institute of the Purchasing Management Association of Canada Inc. Act , Bill Pr65, Mr. McFadden, agreed to	1735
Windsor Youth Marching and Concert Band Act , Bill Pr68, Mr. Newman, agreed to . .	1735
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act , Bill 34, Hon. Mr. Scott, Mr. Sterling, agreed to	1735
Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act , Bill 79, Hon. Mr. Wrye, agreed to . .	1736

Committee of the whole House

Pension Benefits Act , Bill 170, Hon. Mr. Kwinter, Mr. McClellan, Mr. Ashe, reported . .	1736
---	------

Third reading

Pension Benefits Act , Bill 170, Hon. Mr. Kwinter, agreed to	1736
---	------

Government motion

Interim supply , resolution 10, Hon. Mr. Nixon, Mr. Harris, agreed to	1744
--	------

Second readings

Employment Standards Amendment Act , Bill 85, Hon. Mr. Wrye, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Harris, agreed to	1744
Bees Act , Bill 96, Hon. Mr. Riddell, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Sterling, agreed to .	1750

Third reading

Bees Act , Bill 96, Hon. Mr. Riddell, agreed to	1752
--	------

Second reading

Health Protection and Promotion Amendment Act , Bill 98, Hon. Mr. Elston, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Reycraft, Mr. D. S. Cooke, Mr. Andrewes, agreed to	1752
--	------

Third reading

Health Protection and Promotion Amendment Act , Bill 98, Hon. Mr. Elston, agreed to	1758
--	------

Other business

Recess	1715
IDEA Corp., Mr. Pope, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gillies	1718
Business of the House, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1758
Adjournment	1758

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
 Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
 Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)
 Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Breagh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)
 Caplan, E. (Oriole L)
 Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education and acting Minister of Government Services (Renfrew North L)
 Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)
 Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
 Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
 Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
 Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
 Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)
 Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
 Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
 Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
 Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
 Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Minister of Financial Institutions (Wilson Heights L)
 Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
 Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
 McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
 McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)
 McKessock, R. (Grey L)
 Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House and Acting Speaker (Carleton East L)
 Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Hamilton Centre L)
 Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
 O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)
 Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines (London Centre L)
 Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)
 Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)

Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming L)
Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)
Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)
Stephenson, B. M. (York Mills PC)
Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)
Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)





No. 35

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Third Session, 33rd Parliament

Monday, June 29, 1987

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is \$16.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8. Phone (416) 965-2238.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, June 29, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. McFadden: The jobs of one million Ontarians depend on export trade. In view of the fact that over 90 per cent of Ontario's exports go to the United States, it is obvious how important the American market is to our economic future. Thousands of jobs in Ontario are at risk as a result of the protectionist omnibus US trade legislation which will become law by the end of this year.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) has confirmed in this House, in answer to my question last week, that the natural resource, telecommunications and steel industries are particularly at risk. Trade in motor vehicles is by far the biggest single export category between Ontario and the United States, yet the economic future of the auto industry is also now in serious question as a result of overcapacity in North America.

What is the answer of the Peterson government to these crucial challenges? Confusion, indecision and inaction. At a time when the federal government is seeking to develop a new and mutually beneficial trade accord with the United States through the freer trade talks, nobody really knows where the Peterson government stands. At a time when there is clear evidence of developing overcapacity in the North American auto industry, the Peterson government buries its head in the sand and refuses to acknowledge there is a problem. At a time when trade issues have become matters of urgent concern, the Peterson government has left the position of assistant deputy minister of industry and trade expansion vacant for close to a year. The Peterson government is failing to provide coherent, capable leadership in trade.

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD DECISION

Ms. Bryden: I would like to ask the government to grant the request for cabinet review of a recent Ontario Municipal Board decision refusing to reopen a case involving a proposed development at 2365-71 Queen Street East. The

request was submitted by Alderman Christie and Councillor Jakobek from ward 9 and supported by me in a letter to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) today. Several local residents' associations also support the request.

Witnesses say that in refusing to reopen the case, the OMB acknowledged that natural justice had been denied to the city of Toronto through lack of notice, but it ruled that it could see no available new evidence which would lead it to change its decision. In fact, the city of Toronto had an expert witness ready to present new evidence.

The OMB's blatant disregard of the principles of natural justice and fair hearings for all parties in this case has converted a local matter to one of pressing provincial interest. The question now at issue is nothing less than the integrity and impartiality of this government-appointed board.

I submit that the board's bias in favour of the developer is so blatant as to disqualify it from further involvement in the case, and I urge the cabinet to overrule the board and restore the decision of the committee of adjustment.

PIT BULL TERRIERS

Mr. McGuigan: I want to add to my statement on pit bull terriers. The danger to humans and animals from dog attacks is not limited to pit bull terriers. It is probably not possible to ban the breeding of any dog. Breeders would go underground.

Defenders of aggressive dogs use the argument that the offender is the owner, not the dog. Accepting this premise for the moment, we must look at the possibilities of enforcing present leash laws, picking up all dogs running at large. Accepting the fact that the Dog Owners' Liability Act compensates the injured party only for the time and medical costs, the act does not charge the owner for criminal offences for the owner's irresponsibility in failing to license the dog, train the dog, leash the dog or confine the dog, if these failures result in death or serious injury. This should be changed.

The Toronto Humane Society is canvassing the history and intent of legislation designed to address the issues in both the United States of America and Canada. Initially it appears that

definition is a problem. For example, one account says that the pit bull terrier is a genetically engineered dog from terrier, bulldog, bull mastiff, Rhodesian ridgeback and Rottweiler blood lines.

It appears that legislation aimed at vicious dogs in general is useful. Paragraph 1 of section 210 of the Ontario Municipal Act gives municipal councils fairly wide powers for dealing with this issue. The results of the research conducted by the humane society will be examined by the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes) and representatives from other ministries as soon as can be arranged.

Mr. Brandt: I am pleased to join my colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) with respect to the issue of pit bull terriers.

As the member will know, this past weekend there were two more incidents involving pit bull terrier attacks. These are dangerous animals. They comprise less than one per cent of the dog population and yet they are involved in 10 per cent of dog bites and attacks. In the United States, of 18 deaths that were related to dog attacks over the past year, fully 10 involved pit bull terriers. It is time for action.

While I recognize the difficulty in passing a law aimed only at pit bulls, there is no such difficulty when the law is aimed at all vicious dogs and, more important, their owners. Therefore, my party would call upon the government to introduce immediately legislation that will, first, require that all vicious dogs be muzzled and leashed in public places; second, require that all vicious dogs be penned and secured when on the owner's property; and third, immediately raise the amount an individual owner can be fined if his or her dog attacks without provocation, and make such a fine contingent upon the attack, not upon the owner's refusal to take remedial action after such an attack occurs.

Last, I call upon the Solicitor General to order the Ontario Provincial Police to set up a special task force to investigate illegal dog fights in this province. The aim of the task force should be to eradicate this blight on our society and to put illegal dog owners and fighters out of business once and for all.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I wish to respond to the announcement by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) of a fund for assistance to housing for disabled persons that was made late on Friday. He may recall that last November I raised this

issue about the plethora of programs that are out there, most of them totally useless to disabled people or their parents who wish to renovate their homes to allow their children or their loved ones to stay in their homes.

I am very pleased with the developments, especially of the \$15,000 forgivable loan which is now available. The announcement is a little misleading in that there is a statement that there are no income restrictions for applicants. In point of fact, there are restrictions, although they are much more generous than they have been in the past, and I am very pleased to see that.

1340

However, it would have been very wise for the government to have announced this in a systematic package that rationalized the various housing assistance programs we have for the disabled in the province, to have brought them all under some kind of rational, uniform approach and to have stopped penalizing families that are keeping their children at home. The cost of keeping them in institutions would be so much higher.

I would like to raise the case of a Fred Weeks, whose multiply-handicapped son is at home. He needs an inside elevator, a whirlpool to do physiotherapy for his child and a second exit from the child's bedroom. He needs to gut the bathroom entirely. His basic cost will be \$58,000 for that renovation. He will now be eligible for up to \$15,000 assistance.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is not enough.

D AND E WOOD INDUSTRIES LTD.

Mr. Pollock: I am pleased to inform the House that D and E Wood Industries is establishing a state-of-the-art combiboard facility in Herschel township near Bancroft. Opening ceremonies took place at 10 a.m. today. This plant is estimated to employ 84 people directly and 50 indirectly, as soon as it swings into production. Startup time is in the fall of 1988.

This industry will provide a service to a large area of eastern Ontario. I would like to congratulate the Herschel township council and the economic development committee consisting of Ivan Fowler, Jim Clayton, Lloyd Churchill, Bruce Davis and Jack Hatton.

The federal government has agreed to contribute \$6.75 million and the provincial government is contributing the same through the Ontario Development Corp. I am pleased this industry has decided to locate in the riding of Hastings-Peterborough.

MARKETING BOARDS

Mr. Stevenson: The Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario has strongly supported and continues to support organized marketing of agricultural products in Ontario. We also strongly support the right of farmers to decide what form of marketing they want for each commodity. Does the current government and the current minister believe in the same system? The answer is unclear.

The Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board has developed an improved marketing plan. It has been waiting for an answer from the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell). The growers want a vote on the delegation of quota power. They do not want the minister to impose his own system. No action at all will destroy the current marketing of vegetables for processing. Our party supports a vote. Where does the minister stand on this issue and on other delicate marketing issues relating to trade?

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am making this statement as acting Chairman of Management Board.

I am tabling today two reviews of the Ontario Public Service: the I Count voluntary survey and the Avebury study, both of which examined equitable employment practices in the public service.

As a result of a review of these reports, I am announcing a new government-wide employment equity program, which will be headed by the human resources secretariat. This program, to be applied on the merit principle, will increase employment equity opportunities for women and will include all minorities.

The program will include the setting of targets and goals to ensure that five initial target groups are fairly represented in the public service and in the senior ranks of the public service. These target groups are a starting point.

The employment equity program will be extended to other ethnic groups following further data collection and an ongoing review of the program. We want to be sure the public service is representative of the diverse public it serves.

The employment equity program will be government-wide, and each ministry will be required to review its own data and to develop goals and timetables within the broad framework developed through the human resources secretariat.

The secretariat will work closely with offices that have a particular interest and responsibility in this area, including the cabinet committee on race relations, the Ontario women's directorate, the race relations directorate, the Office for Disabled Persons, the Ontario native affairs directorate, the Office of Francophone Affairs, the office of equality rights of the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. In addition, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union has indicated its strong commitment to employment equity and will work in partnership with the government on this initiative.

Equal opportunity for all Ontarians is a fundamental objective of the government. This employment equity initiative is an important part of that thrust.

RACE RELATIONS

Hon. Mr. Scott: In the recent speech from the throne, the government reaffirmed its commitment to combat systemic discrimination and help ensure that all residents of our province enjoy equal opportunity to employment and fair treatment in the work place. In the area of race relations, this commitment was reflected first in the promise to establish a race relations directorate. Today, I am pleased to announce the mandate of the directorate.

Responsibility for promoting tolerance and positive race relations must be shared by all sectors of our society. Still, I believe government has a crucial role to play by providing a focus for community concern about racism and leadership in this area. The race relations directorate will assist the government in fulfilling this role through promotion, advocacy and policy development for the ministries in race relations.

The mandate of the directorate will include the monitoring and evaluation of government initiatives—such as the ones just announced by the acting Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Nixon)—and legislation that have race relations implications, as well as public education. The directorate will address the serious gap in information available on race relations in this province through the development of a race relations database and research capacity. The directorate will also consider the effectiveness of private sector activities that have an impact on race relations.

In addition to its policy and promotion functions, the directorate will work to reduce racial tensions in the community by playing a mediation role and by assisting public and private

organizations to establish programs to foster harmonious race relations. It will inquire into incidents of and conditions potentially leading to racial conflict where they exist, and where appropriate, will help set up mechanisms or co-ordinate strategies to resolve or prevent racial tension.

To assist the directorate in fulfilling its mandate, the existing race relations division of the Ontario Human Rights Commission will be transferred to the directorate. Responsibility for investigating and conciliating complaints of racial discrimination will of course remain with the commission.

The mandate of the directorate reflects the fact that discrimination is not often the result of individual ill will, but instead may be the result of policies and practices that may unintentionally have a discriminatory effect. For this reason, the directorate is being encouraged through its mandate to play a proactive, preventive role rather than a responsive or reactive one.

We hope that the establishment of the directorate, which is the first of its kind in Canada, puts Ontario at the forefront of race relations policy in the country.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Wrye: In February, I introduced draft legislation setting out the first comprehensive revisions to the Occupational Health and Safety Act in almost a decade. My purpose was to initiate wide-ranging consultation with labour, management and the public in general. The result of these consultations has been much constructive input that will make for a better occupational health and safety system in Ontario.

Later today, I will be introducing legislation that allows the work place parties to meet their health and safety responsibilities more fully. Should the work place parties not live up to their responsibilities, the government will have at its disposal a strong hand to act effectively.

The bill responds to key concerns of workers in Ontario in a number of ways.

It expands a worker's right to refuse to do a job the worker believes to be unsafe by including an activity the worker believes would endanger himself or herself or someone else. This provision covers such activities as lifting heavy objects. It also precludes an employer from assigning refused work to another employee until an investigation has determined that the work is safe.

Under the right-to-refuse provisions, the bill recognizes that there might be occasions when

the refusal itself could create an imminent danger to other workers or to the general public, so the legislation would permit an employer to assign another worker without having to await the outcome of an investigation, but the second worker would still have the right to refuse as well.

The right of refusal without the right to be paid for the time lost is an empty right. This legislation will ensure the right for workers to be paid 75 per cent of their wages and benefits for any time lost because of a work refusal or stop-work order.

1350

The legislation is designed also to increase greatly the number of joint health and safety committees and worker representatives in Ontario by eliminating certain exemptions that have been granted in the past. It enhances significantly the role of the joint health and safety committee by increasing minimum committee membership to four and requiring co-chairmen, one each from labour and management.

The bill would also require that, at a minimum, the committee or health and safety representative inspect some part of the work place on a monthly basis and the entire area at least once a year.

Of central importance, this bill prescribes a number of measures to underscore the fundamental responsibility that the employer has for health and safety. The government believes that the protection and promotion of health and safety in the work place require the commitment and active involvement of senior management. In this regard, the bill would place upon every director and officer of a corporation a duty to take all reasonable care for worker health and safety.

Employers would be required to establish health and safety policies, undertake work place health and safety programs and provide effective training for employees. Employers would also be required to respond in writing within 30 days to any recommendation of a joint committee or of a worker representative. That response would have to provide a timetable for implementation. If an employer disagreed with a joint health and safety committee recommendation, the reasons would have to be stated.

Committee members and worker representatives would also have a right to be present when work place testing takes place and employers would be required to provide them with access to testing information.

Finally, the bill would increase the maximum fine to \$250,000 from the present \$25,000. In

addition, it would permit the crown to elect that charges brought under the act be tried before a provincial court judge instead of a justice of the peace.

This legislation is designed to ensure that Ontario's health and safety system is responsive to the challenges of the 1980s and, indeed, the 1990s. Moreover, it reflects the expectations of Ontarians that in 1987 workers have a right to sustained health and safety at work. We are committed to moving towards that goal.

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Hon. Mr. Riddell: As the members of this Legislature know, beef production is a major source of income for Ontario farmers. To protect producers' incomes during times of depressed market prices, the government of Ontario and the government of Canada signed a tripartite income stabilization agreement for red meat in 1986.

Separate schemes were developed for slaughter cattle producers and for those with cow-calf operations. A total of 2,580 Ontario slaughter cattle producers have now enrolled, representing approximately 75 per cent of the province's beef slaughter production. Some 1,628 cow-calf producers enrolled under that scheme.

While the agreement was a positive first step, not all beef producers were covered. Neither of the two beef plans applied to feeder cattle. I wish to inform the members today that steps have been taken to remedy this situation.

In conjunction with the government of Canada and the producers concerned, the Ontario government has signed an extension of the tripartite agreement for beef cattle. Tripartite stabilization will now include the feeder cattle or background-segment of the beef industry.

This extension to the agreement comes into effect on July 1, 1987. With its implementation, tripartite stabilization will be available to all beef producers. The deadline for enrolment or transfer is August 31, 1987.

The new scheme offers Ontario producers two additional choices: a new feeder cattle option and a combined slaughter-feeder option. Slaughter cattle producers currently enrolled in tripartite may transfer to one of the additional options.

Producers who enrol in the new options may do so without penalty. However, established producers who did not join in the original tripartite program but enrol now with a slaughter cattle or cow-calf component will be subject to a late entry penalty for those options.

This new federal-provincial program is another positive step towards this government's

continuing efforts to bring greater financial stability to the farmers of this province.

RESPONSES

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Gillies: With regard to the statement made today by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) on his proposed occupational health and safety legislation, we want to express our dissatisfaction with the progress the minister has made in this area.

Mr. Speaker, you may recall, it was on the last day of the last session that the minister came in here with a statement proposing draft legislation that his ministry would be studying and evaluating, and on which it would eventually be taking some concrete steps. What do we see today? The minister comes in on what may well be the last day of this session and introduces a bill. I am sure, if the minister was being candid with this House, he would agree that is just a bit of a farce and that the bill in all likelihood will die on the order paper in the face of an election; or even if there is no election this year, the minister's bill will be in committee in the fall and will eventually possibly find its way into law.

The minister says in his statement that he is introducing a bill to meet the needs of the 1980s and the 1990s. We say by the time he gets around to passing his bill, the 1980s will be over and we may well be into the 1990s.

RACE RELATIONS

Mr. Gillies: Similarly, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) brings us basically a reannouncement of the creation of a directorate on race relations. There was no need to tell the House there was going to be a directorate on race relations. We knew that; but what is actually significant about this statement is that we see that the war is over. Anyone who has been around here for a while knows there has been a fight over the control of the race relations part of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. In the past, strong and able Ministers of Labour were able to guard that turf and keep the human rights commission together as an integral unit.

Clearly, the Attorney General and minister of everything has won the fight, because after years of maintaining the human rights commission together as an integral unit, the fight has been lost by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) and the directorate is moving over to the Attorney General's department.

I would say to the minister that some of the initiatives he proposes are all well and good, but

if he really wanted to strengthen this province's attack on racial discrimination and if he really wanted to increase the mandate of the directorate, he would rather have increased the resources and the powers of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. The minister would have stood behind Canon Purcell and his people in their attempt to do the jobs that he assigned them rather than splintering the effort the way he is doing.

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mr. Stevenson: We are pleased to see this statement today on the tripartite stabilization for feeder cattle. I am glad that the minister followed our advice. He will remember that in the last estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, we spent a great deal of time talking about coverage for feeder cattle producers and for red veal producers. Even his own colleague, the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), was very upset at that time with the lack of action that the minister had shown on this particular issue.

It was the intent, of course, and the hope, that this would be in place at the time the tripartite stabilization program was first announced, but we know the minister made some considerable haste at that time because he wanted to put on a good show at the first Ontario Federation of Agriculture annual meeting after he got into the minister's position.

The other thing I hope, although it is not very clearly stated here, is that the red veal producers are going to be covered by this. I would assume that they would come in under the slaughter-cattle-feeder option section of this program. If they are not covered, then I would suggest that the minister go back and start doing his work all over again, and get them involved.

Mr. Hayes: I would like to respond to the tripartite stabilization program. I welcome the announcement because it finally does include beef feeder cattle. I think it is very nice that the minister is finally coming out and coming forward with some of these late announcements prior to the end of this session, and I am sure that beef producers will be pleased to hear this announcement.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I want to stay here all summer.

Mr. Hayes: Will the minister answer my question on the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board while he is at it?

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: The announcement of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) is a clear-cut indication that problems will persist in this province. The swamp will never be drained if what is being proposed goes ahead.

The Minister of Labour knows full well that every agency has spoken out against the internal responsibility system as it now is, except McKenzie and Laskin, and he paid them \$483,000 to get the answer he wanted.

One has only to look at the Ontario Law Reform Commission; one only has to look at his own advisory council; one only has to look at the survey done for the advisory council; one only has to look at the Provincial Auditor: they all say the internal responsibility system does not work.

I wish the Big Four, who are at the front benches, would listen to all of the people who oppose the minister's proposed legislation. It has not worked for eight years and he is perpetuating the present system. I have not even mentioned the Ontario Federation of Labour or the various trade union movements which indicate the act cannot work the way it is. The minister has not changed the power structure one iota. He has left power in the hands of upper management, totally and completely, to make all the decisions.

It is strange that where companies have put worker counsellors in, at the cost of the company, the accident rate has been reduced. I think of Inco, where it has been reduced from 13.6 accidents per 100 to 1.6 per 100 because they have workers who have some say on how the thing is going to work and how the act is going to work and how the internal responsibility system is going to work.

The Minister of Labour, contrary to what everyone has asked him, including his own advisory council which said "Please open up the process," brings back the same legislation they opposed after he introduced it in February. He flies in the face of everyone. In fact, we will continue to count the bodies, one every working day of the year and 440,000 accidents last year, and he does not change a damned thing. He is a disgrace.

Mr. Rae: First, I want to say I am shocked and dismayed that we have not had a statement today from the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter). We were expecting one. We were told, along with many of the media, that one was coming. It is an indication of the way in which the minister has handled the whole insurance débâcle in this province. The cheques are going out; the minister does not have

the guts to bring in his legislation so we can have a proper debate and get the insurance companies to tell us how much money they are really making.

Mr. Speaker: On which statement were you responding?

Mr. Rae: I just wanted to make that comment about a statement that was not made. Now I have a brief one about one that was.

Interjection.

Mr. Rae: Well, it is the last day.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Mr. Rae: With respect to the announcement made by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Nixon), the Attorney General pats himself on the back as he always does, saying that Ontario is far ahead. I want to point out to him that the federal government not only has an employment equity program but also has requirements with respect to contracts of major companies with the federal government, something this government has clearly rejected. So too does the city of Toronto, which program the minister is aware of. When he says Ontario is in the forefront, he is simply distancing himself from the truth at a very rapid rate.

Interjection.

Mr. Rae: Did you like that? Similarly, I want to say to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) that I think one of the areas in which his government has clearly failed is this question of human rights legislation and the need to give clear mandates and clear leadership in the field of human rights. He had an opportunity to do it two years ago. He had a battle between bureaucracies, which he has known about for two years; he has chosen to fudge it. He delayed with respect to the I Count survey so that it is now coming out so late that nothing is being done and no legislation is being put in place.

Whatever the press may say, I think the record is much less than meets the eye and much less than what is required.

VISITOR

Hon. Mr. Curling: Mr. Speaker, may I have the unanimous consent of the House to introduce a former member of the Jamaican government?

Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Curling: In the chamber today we have Portia Simpson, a former member of Parliament for Jamaica and a former parliamentary secretary in the Prime Minister's office,

responsible for social affairs. She is also vice-president of the People's National Party and president of the party's women's movement.

Mr. Rae: Having had the opportunity to attend a fraternal gathering between the New Democratic Party and the People's National Party on Friday, and having had the occasion to speak with Portia Simpson on a common platform, I am delighted to see her here with her delegation. We have a very strong relationship with the People's National Party and with Michael Manley's government in waiting in Jamaica and we look forward to even closer relations when we both have our elections this year.

Mr. Grossman: May I join in welcoming our guest. I have had the pleasure of meeting both the current Prime Minister and the former Prime Minister and found them both to be very intellectually stimulating and dedicated servants of their people. Our guest might take some counsel from my colleague to my left in that she had best find, I suspect, a third party with an accord option if she seeks to perhaps re-establish her foothold in government. In the meantime, I urge her to take guidance not only from my colleague to my left but also from colleagues to his right, which are only over here not only there, before she finishes her visit.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Grossman: On this day when we will be considering in Orders and Notices both the bill finally to open bookstores on Sunday, thanks to the efforts of Ed Borins and the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, and as well will deal with conflict of interest, I have some questions to the Premier on conflict of interest.

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Grossman: My question to the Premier is this: a year ago when his colleague the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) was Minister of Northern Development and Mines, he approached officials of his own ministry on behalf of a company that he owned and controlled and subsequently got a forest management agreement, awarded by his own, former ministry by then, to his own company. As a result, when this matter was studied by the Premier, he said: "I am satisfied there is no impropriety whatsoever. Having looked into the situation, I am absolutely persuaded of that." Yet in this past week, R  al Levesque, a competitor of the member for

Cochrane North, was found guilty of breaking the law and was convicted of a criminal offence.

Mr. Speaker: The question, please?

Mr. Grossman: The question is this: given the fact that the judge in that matter said, Mr. Fontaine's breach of the conflict-of-interest guidelines, the judge said, "I think it is a reason why" Mr. Lévesque "committed the offence," and given the fact that his minister's activities caused someone, due to the findings as found by a judge, to break the law—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Grossman: —would the Premier not now agree that his assurance of a year ago was totally without substance and would he like this afternoon to withdraw that assurance?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member may want to correct the record. The FMA was not entered into with his ministry; it was another ministry. He will recall it had independent scrutiny by Dean Baskerville, Mr. Spooner and others.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think he will want to check that out. With respect, I just want the record to be clear because my honourable friend inadvertently left some facts on the table that were not quite accurate. As he knows, I gather the judge reviewed this matter, as the select committee of this House reviewed the matter, and they have all made their own determinations on this situation. The member for Cochrane North left the cabinet because of it, as the member well knows, and there the matter sits.

Mr. Grossman: Where the matter sits is that the Premier has chosen to reappoint him, at least as a parliamentary assistant. Where the matter sits is that the Premier is on record as saying there is no impropriety whatsoever. Where the matter sits is that the Premier insists it is a technical violation when a judge has found that the member's activities have caused another law-abiding citizen to break the law.

The Premier has had an opportunity this afternoon at least to cleanse the record and withdraw his statement of a year ago and he chose not to.

Given that, my question is this: Judge Cadsby said, in referring to Mr. Levesque, "What I find to be important so far as the public is concerned and so far as the government of Ontario is concerned is what can result from a violation of the Premier's conflict-of-interest guidelines by a member of his cabinet. "Too often such a conflict may be regarded by the public as a mere technical

breach, not really hurting anyone. What happened in this case indicates that when the conflict-of-interest guidelines are violated, then members of the public who perceive themselves to be affected will react."

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

1410

Mr. Grossman: "In this case, the reaction of the defendant was the commission of two criminal offences." Given that conclusion by a judge, approved and supported by submissions made by the Premier's own crown attorney, will the Premier not agree that it is appropriate now to send out the conflict-of-interest bill to a committee of the Legislature where we may hear from Mr. Levesque about what happens when conflict-of-interest guidelines are perceived to—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the honourable member's point does illustrate why we need very clear conflict-of-interest legislation in this House. It is something we support very strongly, as my honourable friend knows.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend opposite, who is making all the noise—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: —has a lot of reservations about this; I do not know why. I would encourage my honourable friends to support this particular piece of legislation. If they have better ideas on how to amend it, we are willing to listen to them. I think it is important in the interests of everyone who participates in public life in this province, and I would highly recommend that my honourable friends opposite look at the situation.

With respect to the judge's determination, I understand his conclusion in the matter. I gather that was advanced as some sort of mitigating effect from Mr. Levesque, who on two or three occasions, whatever it was, offered bribes to certain ministry officials. I would hope that neither my honourable friend opposite nor anyone else in this province would say to himself, "Someone else broke a law, or I perceive that he broke the law, or I perceive that he is doing something else; therefore, that is an excuse for me to break the law." As my honourable friend knows, the legal system does not work that way.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) have a supplementary, or the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. Grossman: What we are talking about here, let us be clear, are actions of the Premier's minister which he defined as "absolutely fine," as "no impropriety," and which a judge appointed by the provincial government, with the supporting submissions of the Premier's own crown attorney, said was not a mitigating factor, as the Premier tries to diminish it.

I will read from the judgement. The judge says: "I find it difficult to consider this a mitigating factor. I think it is a reason why he committed the offence." That is the behaviour of his minister approaching the very same officials, whom Mr. Levesque approached, and in self-defence as the judge says, offered some money. Not for special treatment: the judge says, "When asked, he consistently stated that he sought only to be treated fairly," by officials who were being approached by their own minister.

Mr. Speaker: And the question? Order. Final supplementary.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier suggests that if we have better ideas, we should offer them. One, reinstate Mr. Davis's tougher guidelines; and two, stand up and enforce them. He has failed every time to enforce the guidelines.

Mr. Speaker: Was that your question?

Mr. Grossman: My supplementary question is this—

Mr. Speaker: Quickly.

Mr. Grossman: After the member for Cochrane North left cabinet, he was subsequently awarded the forest management agreement contract a couple of months later. Would the Premier not agree that the awarding of that contract by his government to a former minister is in total violation of clause 6(1)(a) of his proposed conflict-of-interest act? Why would he try and propose legislation after he lets his ministers violate what he then tries to legislate against?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: If he meant it, why did he not stop them from—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member would want to be aware, just so he is clear on all the facts, that some of the alleged bribes, or I guess the now proven bribes, took place long after the member for Cochrane North had left the cabinet.

Mr. Grossman: What has that got to do with it?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the honourable member wants all the facts to be very clear.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot understand the honourable member's conclusion that it was somehow or other dependent on equalizing a situation.

I believe we need clear legislation in this province. I think the member should support it. I know he perhaps would rather delay it for some reason that I cannot understand, but I think my honourable friend should be persuaded that it is in everyone's interest to pass it very quickly.

The member has an independent arbitrator on the situation. We are all subject to disclosure. We all play by the same rules. I am very happy to do that, and that is why we brought forward the most progressive piece of legislation this province has ever seen.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is there a new question, and to which minister?

Mr. Grossman: I have a question again to the Premier. It is not the most progressive; it is less progressive than the Davis guidelines. They are not even equal to the Davis guidelines.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: Clause 6(1)(a) of the Premier's proposed conflict-of-interest guidelines reads as follows: "The executive council: a member of the executive council...shall not knowingly, (a) award or approve a contract with, or grant a benefit to, a former member of the executive council, until 12 months have expired after the date when the former member ceased to hold office."

Would the Premier not agree that in awarding the forest management agreement contract to the member for Cochrane North three months after he left cabinet, his cabinet has violated completely clause 6(1)(a) of Bill 23?

An hon. member: Already.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is an interesting point. My honourable friend says "already", we have violated a law that is not even in existence. He is suggesting that and yet he does not support the law.

My honourable friend cannot have it both ways. He will recall that this FMA was referred out, because it was controversial at the time, for independent scrutiny by Dean Baskerville and, as I recall, Mr. Spooner. It came back for a clear independent assessment. The member has seen

that, it is all public and everyone knows what the procedure has been.

Mr. Grossman: Just so the Premier understands the reservations we have about any set of conflict-of-interest guidelines left in his hands, let me restate the question. Would the Premier agree that had clause 6(1)(a) been in place when the FMA was awarded last September or October, it would have been in total and complete violation of the legislation?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member does not even like the legislation. How can he stand in the House and, on one the hand, assert the primacy of the legislation and, on the other hand, not support the legislation? It is like my honourable friend all the time. He wants it both ways on everything. I tell him to come forward and bring forward some clear rules with an independent commissioner so everyone will play by the same rules.

Mr. Grossman: If ever there was a definition of wanting it both ways, it is of course exactly what the Premier has done in wanting it both ways. First, he does nothing on conflict of interest and he allows his minister to approach his own employees, then leave on his own account—not on the Premier's account—and then get an award of the FMA contract.

After the member has done that, after he has got what he wanted to get from his own ministry by pressuring his own officials—and then got it after he left cabinet—the Premier wants to have it both ways by legislating against it and saying, “Look at what a tough Premier I am.” Of course he is not tough. He let the member get away with what he later legislated against.

Mr. Speaker: What is the question? Does the Leader of the Opposition have a final supplementary?

Mr. Grossman: The Premier has now had the opportunity of getting some advice from the Attorney General (Mr. Scott). Would he answer the question?

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr. Grossman: Had clause 6(1)(a) been in place at the time when the member for Cochrane North got his forest management agreement to the exclusion of Mr. Levesque, would it have violated that section? Yes or no? The Premier should stand up for once and give us the answer.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I invite my honourable friend to look at that act quite closely. It brings in much tougher disclosure rules, it includes everybody in a situation, it brings certainty to the

situation, in that an independent commissioner would judge on the situation. Why is my honourable friend, who is asserting the act, so reluctant to stand up and support it? Why does he continue to want to have it both ways? He is just interested in causing a fuss as opposed to dealing with the issues. That is the difference between us.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Leader of the Opposition has taken up plenty of time.

1420

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will just wait if you want to waste the time. New question, the member for York South.

Mr. Rae: A question for the Premier on this question of conflict: I wonder if the Premier can confirm that when his cabinet was being formed and when his government was being formed, he had before him and his cabinet the Davis guidelines and the cabinet members realized at that point that many of them could not continue to serve unless they divested themselves of some of their interests. I wonder if the Premier can confirm that Mary Eberts in fact changed the Davis guidelines so that they permitted members of his government to stay in the cabinet and that is why those guidelines were changed.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think we have gone through this discussion before many times in the committee, but the member will recall that the senior crown law officer in charge of the situation, one Blenus Wright, had recommended changes for some long time previous to that. There is nothing new or exciting about that revelation the member has brought to the House today.

Mr. Rae: I was not asking for a judgement as to whether my questions are any good or not or whether they are even new or exciting; that is not the issue. Some days are good days, some days are not so good. I do not know; I do the best I can.

What I would like is a yes or a no this time. It is not a multiple-choice question; it is not a good or a bad question; it is a yes or no question. I would like to ask the Premier: can he confirm that his own government's guidelines were watered down so members of his cabinet could stay in the cabinet and maintain their private business interests at the same time?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: To the question that private business interests were maintained, everything was put in blind trusts. There were problems that my friend knows about along the

way, but that was on the basis of recommendations coming forward from Mr. Wright for some long period of time.

Mr. Rae: I wonder if the Premier can confirm that he himself could not have served in Bill Davis's cabinet with respect to his own business interests under the Davis guidelines and that in fact the guidelines were changed by him and his government in order to allow him and others to stay in the cabinet and maintain their private business interests at the same time.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member is quite right—as a matter of conscience, I could never have served in a Davis cabinet and never would have tried to. But he is quite wrong about the latter part of his question, quite wrong; that was not the reason.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for York South.

Mr. Rae: The Premier has said I am quite wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Is it a new question?

Mr. Rae: Yes, it is. I would like to ask the Premier a question. Would he not agree that one of the main features of the Davis guidelines was a requirement that a member of cabinet could not have any financial holdings or business holdings in a company that did business with the government; yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Yes, that is my recollection.

Mr. Rae: All right. Now, can the Premier tell us, does he know in fact whether there are private business holdings that are held by members of cabinet or that are held in blind trust by members of cabinet that do or do not do business with the government?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not aware of any, but I am also under the impression that all the assets are in blind trusts and not managed by any of the members of council. The member may have a different view or different knowledge on that situation.

I am going back to the old Legislative Assembly Act. I gather there was an exclusion for people holding timber licences—I may well be right; the Attorney General could assist me in that—to take into account that situation where people are normally involved in relationships with government. But I am not aware of anything that the honourable member suggests.

Mr. Rae: The Premier could not be aware, and neither could anybody else, precisely because these interests have been placed in a blind

trust. How do we know what a conflict of interest is? How can cabinet members be aware of whether or not they have a conflict of interest? How can this government have a protection with respect to people doing business with the government when the very term "conflict of interest" is not defined anywhere in this government's legislation? Nor is the commissioner given the authority to order people to divest themselves of property. Can the Premier not confirm that?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The leader of the third party is quite wrong. Conflict of interest is defined very clearly in section 2 of the act. Obviously, a conflict of interest is if someone puts his personal interest ahead of the public interest, and obviously the member and I would agree that no one should ever take special advantage of the situation. It was clearly spelled out in section 2.

Not only that. I gather my honourable friend is uncomfortable with blind trusts. The new act would bring in complete disclosure, not only for ministers of the crown but also for their spouses and, indeed, for all members of the Legislature; all there for everyone to see.

At the same time, it would be judged by an independent commissioner who would have a view in making judgements with respect to those situations if there was any potential of a conflict of interest. That would be reported back to the House and, ultimately, would be the responsibility of the Premier.

If my honourable friend looks at the act, he will see that all the problems he has raised have indeed been answered.

Mr. Grossman: That shows precisely why we need hearings. The Premier does not understand the legislation, and those questions have not been answered at all.

I want to repeat my question, because the Premier keeps refusing to answer it. He is very evasive this afternoon and uncomfortable with all conflict-of-interest questions.

Under clause 6(1)(a) of his proposed legislation, Bill 23, would the award of the forest management agreement to the member for Cochrane North three months after he left cabinet be a violation of that section? Yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I just sought some of the highest-quality legal advice this province could ever avail itself of. The Attorney General tells me the answer, in his legal opinion, is no.

Mr. Grossman: If the Attorney General once again wants to give, shall we say an unusual interpretation to a piece of fairly straightforward

legislation, it proves once again why we need public hearings—so we will know what is allowed and what is not allowed.

We know the Premier would have studied this act carefully. Under subsection 6(3), which the Attorney General refers to, it says, "Clauses 1(a) and (b)"—he must have been caught under subsection 1(a); that is why the Attorney General tries to exempt him under subsection 3—"do not apply if the conditions on which the contract or benefit is awarded, approved or granted to the former member are the same for all persons similarly entitled."

Mr. Levesque was in the problem he was in and subsequently broke the law precisely because it required an arbitrary and discretionary decision; not one based upon "all persons similarly entitled," but because some got and some did not get. Mr. Levesque clearly did not get. He was a competitor of the minister and the minister did get. The judge says Mr. Levesque broke a law because the minister appeared to exercise influence with his own employees.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Grossman: Would the Premier explain how subsection 6(3) somehow exonerates his former minister, who got an award at the expense of Mr. Levesque, so the courts say?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I will refer this to the Attorney General to give my honourable friend a legal definition to make him feel better.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been referred to the Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I think the answer to the question is that subsection 3 provides "Clauses 1(a) and (b) do not apply if the conditions on which the contract or benefit is awarded, approved or granted to the former member are the same for all persons similarly entitled," and the question here is, what were the conditions on which the person similarly entitled to an FMA received it? The honourable member who was a beneficiary under that contract received it on the same conditions as the others who were entitled to it.

1430

That is answer one. The other answer is provided by clause 11(1)(d) of the Legislative Assembly Act, which speaks to the eligibility of a member of an assembly, of course, but stipulates that no one is ineligible "by reason of his being the holder of a mining licence or having a contract or agreement with Her Majesty or with any public officer or ministry with respect to the

same or to mines or mining rights, but no such person shall vote on any question affecting such licence, contract or agreement or in which he is interested by reason thereof."

The honourable members will know there are certain other sections, such as clause (f), that speak in precisely the same terms to timber licences, with which we may be concerned here, and fishery licences.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) take his seat?

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier on a new subject. I want to ask the Premier a question about the employment equity announcement today that was made by the acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Nixon). On February 18, 1985, a communiqué from the Liberal Party quoted the following statement by David Peterson: "We shall bring forward legislative changes to ensure that equality of opportunity becomes a reality." Then he went on to say, "Companies doing business with my government will have to have affirmative action programs as a condition of contract compliance."

In the draft cabinet statement on multiculturalism that went to cabinet under the rubric of the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) in November, there was again a direct reference to the question of contract compliance.

In the announcement made today by his colleague the acting Chairman of Management Board, there was not a word said about the private sector, not a word said about what was going to be done, not a word said about legislation, not a word said about the law—

Mr. Speaker: And the question is?

Mr. Rae: —not a word said about the world outside the government. I would like to ask the Premier: what has happened in the last two years that he has turned his back on the millions of people who are working in the private sector and who are having to fight against discrimination? What is he going to do about them?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member heard the statement quite accurately. We have entered into the I Count study, as my honourable friend will be aware. It gave us a statistical base on which to base certain policy judgements, and we have started, conscientiously, in the public sector. That experience, once gleaned, and when we share the results with the broader public sector as

well as the private sector—we have made a significant and important start today, based on not just a feeling and not just a reaction but with statistical evidence, and I think it is a significant step forward.

[Applause]

Mr. Rae: The seals can applaud, but the reality is that the Premier has done—

An hon. member: The Treasurer is not a seal; he is a walrus.

Mr. Rae: All right—walrus.

The reality is that the Premier has done less in this legislation than the city of Toronto and less than the federal government in Ottawa. That is an astonishing achievement—less than Brian Mulroney or Art Eggleton. I would never have thought it possible. That is the reality.

Can he explain why Art Eggleton can move on contract compliance and Brian Mulroney can move on contract compliance but the Premier does not have the guts to stand up for minorities who are working in the private sector and see that they have a law that protects them, not just a statement but the law that protects them, the law of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: To my honourable friend and his inflated rhetoric on this matter, I think it has been a very carefully thought out policy that my honourable friend announced today. We are determined to make real progress. We know the problems. We know the strengths. We know the weaknesses, obviously, of the public service at the present time. We think that can be a model for all and we are determined to make it happen.

IMMUNIZATION

Mr. Reycraft: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Health concerning Bill 98, An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act, affecting immunization measures.

Based on an interview that was reported in Saturday's London Free Press and a report on CFPL-TV London last night, it is obvious that there is considerable confusion about the motivation and the intent behind Bill 98. Would the minister please clarify for the record why Bill 98 was brought forward and what its effect is?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Briefly, Bill 98 was brought in because we had received representations from the medical profession that indicated that the broadness of the provisions under Bill 52, the private member's bill sponsored by the member for Rainy River (Mr. Pierce), was such that they found it was almost impossible for them to comply with the terms of the amended act.

They asked that we make things more precise so they could be more assured that the information they were giving would cover their responsibilities as professionals.

We did that by introducing Bill 98, which was passed here last week. The motivation for the amendment was to clear up the difficulties that had been found after the bill was sent through the committee stage. We have eliminated some of the broadness of the act so that the professionals will be able to feel that they can proceed to deliver vaccinations to children and prevent some of the spread of disease that vaccinations are designed to prevent.

Mr. Reycraft: Bill 52, as it was amended by the standing committee on social development, had two inherent principles: first, that parents would be advised before immunization of the benefits and the risks associated with the vaccine; and second, that whenever a child had a serious reaction the reaction would be reported. Can the minister affirm that the amendment, Bill 98, does not weaken either of those principles?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The amendments via Bill 98 that were just passed require the parents or the patient, depending on the age of the person, to be informed about the material risks accompanying vaccination. It also does not affect the requirement for reporting.

It is to be noted that one of the concerns that was expressed to us by the professional groups after the passage of Bill 52 was the fact that they had no opportunity to bring their expertise to bear with respect to some of the amendments that came in very late indeed in the committee hearings, in clause-by-clause. It was as a result of analysis after the bill was passed through the Legislature that some of the implications were determined and, as a result, the request was made to us to clarify the amendments.

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Gillies: My question is to the Premier about his government's continuing coverup of the Graham Software and Wyda Systems scandals. We would like to ask the Premier again, as we did last Thursday: in view of the fact that Jack Biddell, whom the Premier asked to review these matters, the failure of two companies that cost the taxpayers of this province more than \$8 million, and in view of the fact that his report on both Graham Software and Wyda was completed in February and the minister has been covering up the report ever since, will the Premier take steps to ensure that the report is tabled in this

House today so that the public can learn a little more about where its \$8 million went?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I may be wrong, but I think the honourable minister answered that question in complete detail last week. I assume the honourable member was here. We are happy to make it public as soon as it is all gathered up.

Mr. Gillies: Just to review the facts of this matter again: Mr. Biddell told the committee that the report on the two companies that sparked the scandals was completed in February.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

1440

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: He did not. He said it was an interim report.

Mr. Harris: You said it. He didn't say that. You continue to lie in this House time after time after time.

Mr. Grossman: He said his work was finished in February.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: No. We will just wait. Just relax and wait.

Mr. Gillies: To the Premier: Mr. Biddell also told the committee he would not recommend that any of the work being done on the continuing viable companies be made public because it would endanger their ability to continue in business. Will the Premier now agree that any of the work Mr. Biddell is doing, which he will recommend be made public, has been completed for five months? If he does not table that report today or possibly tomorrow, then he will have succeeded in his efforts to cover up this matter and keep it from public scrutiny. Will he ensure that this report is tabled?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend continues to hoot and holler about this issue, but let me just quote Mr. Biddell's words to him. I am operating on the premise that the member was there but was suffering from selective amnesia when he was there. It said, "Immediately on reception or the submission of this interim report;" according to Mr. Biddell, "and when I submitted the draft report to Mr. Lavelle;" it said "he is going on to do additional work." It is quite clear and the answer has been clear for some time.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell). Order, the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris).

DOCTORS' FEES

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Minister of Health. How could the Minister of Health possibly sign an agreement with the doctors last week that would guarantee them a 1.5 per cent special adjustment to deal with the economic impact on the medical profession as a result of a ban on extra billing? Is it not true that last year he and his Premier (Mr. Peterson) promised the people of Ontario that the recovery of the money from the federal government as a result of the ban on extra billing would not be used to buy off the doctors, but instead would be used to improve the health care system for the people of this province? Why did he go back on his word to the people of this province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We did not go back on our word to the people of this province. In fact, we recovered that money and we have expanded the health system of this province extraordinarily well. Just to mention two or three items: we have the University of Ottawa Heart Institute at the Ottawa Civic Hospital and the Toronto Western Eye Institute; we have the viral lab at the University of Toronto; we have expanded an air ambulance. We have done a number of things. In fact, we have made expenditures far beyond the money that was recovered and withheld previously by the federal government, and the member knows that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The minister will know the money he announced for capital was in the budget the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) brought down before the doctors' strike even occurred. Is the minister trying to tell the people of this province that it is just a mere coincidence that the buyoff, the 1.5 per cent, is the exact same amount of money that was recovered from the federal government when the ban took place?

I would like to ask the minister with respect to administrative charges still in place in this province, how in blazes is he going to negotiate a ban on those administrative charges when he has absolutely no bargaining power whatsoever now, as he has already settled the fee dispute in this province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have the mechanism of the bill, which the member, who was in the House, helped us to pass last year, and we are using it. We have provided those patients who have been charged in the past with reimbursement and then have pursued the collection of the

money from the doctors who have offended. We can now tell members that we are much more thoroughly prepared to deal with those people, who are an embarrassment not only to the medical system but also to the medical profession in this province. We will continue to pursue those people who are such an embarrassment.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: We will just wait. Order, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel).

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Gillies: A question again to the Premier: since the Premier is into Hansard readings this afternoon, I would like to read back something the Premier said last Thursday when we were questioning him about the Biddell report. He said, "We are happy to make public whatever is appropriate in the circumstances."

In view of the fact that the public invested \$8 million in two companies, Wyda and Graham Software, in view of the fact that this money is now lost to the public, in view of the fact that there are ongoing investigations into these and related matters and in view of the fact that both of those companies had close ties to the Liberal Party and to this government and to a former minister of this government, does the Premier not think, and I quote his own words, that it would be "appropriate in the circumstances" that the details of this whole sordid mess be brought before this House and before the taxpayers?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We said that all the information will be made public. That is the same answer I have given on many other occasions, but go ahead and ask the question again.

Mr. Gillies: We have to put this question in some kind of context. The Premier is very happy to stand up time after time—

Mr. Speaker: Is there a supplementary?

Mr. Gillies: By way of supplementary—to say: "We are open. We will make this available; we will make that available." In the last year, the Premier has said that he will make available the details of the investigation into Wyda, that he will make public the details of the investigation into PEC Financial Corp. and that he will make public the details into the Vaughan land sale. Now he tells us he will make public the details of the Biddell report. The Premier has made none of these things public.

Is the Premier relegating this Biddell report to the ashcan of these other reports and investigations in some sort of vain hope that they will disappear before an election comes and goes?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer to the member's question is a very clear no. My honourable friend will know that his esteemed leader has said the election is going to be some time next year, so we have lots of time to share it with him.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister is no doubt aware of press reports that the welfare administration in London is demanding that recipients who are employable accept jobs as scabs with Canada Post or be denied their benefits. Can the minister let me know his position on this? Does he not feel these people have a right to be opposed, like the Prime Minister, to crossing picket lines? Would he perhaps be concerned about their health and safety?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The principle of this government is that nobody has to cross a picket line.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister has an override. Many members may know that if he chooses, he can reinstate someone who has been denied welfare by a municipality and force the municipality to pay for that person's assistance. Is the minister willing to take that kind of initiative with anyone who is denied welfare in London for failing to become a scab?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: When I heard the rumour, and I emphasize that at this point that is what it was presented as, I checked and found out that in fact that has not happened.

Mr. Speaker: The acting Minister of Government Services has a response to a question asked previously.

LEASE OF GOVERNMENT LAND

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like very briefly to respond to a question put some weeks ago by my colleague the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan). The member for Brampton asked whether the province could review the process of selling lands in his riding leased under the former home ownership made easy program.

I am pleased to advise my colleagues in the House that new procedures have been put in place along the lines he suggested. Effective immediately, land appraisal prices for resale property will be fixed for 60 days from the date of the written appraisal. The appraisal price will remain in effect until the sale closes, provided it closes within six months of the written appraisal.

1450

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr. Gregory: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I wonder whether the minister could inform the House as to the procedure taken by the Ontario Human Rights Commission to investigate a case of sexual harassment. In answering, could the minister explain how long this process takes and what is the average length of time taken to investigate a complaint?

Mr. Martel: Put it on the Orders and Notices.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I heard somebody from the third party mention putting it on the Orders and Notices. I think the question asked for a great deal of detail, which talks about the length of time not only for any and all investigations but also for a general investigation. I hope my friend realizes he has asked for a lot of detail, but I can check into it and get back to him, perhaps by letter.

Mr. Gregory: It is obvious to me that the minister does not have the foggiest notion of the answer to the question, not the foggiest, but I am going to help him a bit and give him an idea of the information he does not have.

Could he perhaps explain for me how a complaint of sexual harassment lodged with the commission in November 1984 still remains unresolved today? During that time, the complainant had to engage a lawyer, wait a full year for the investigation, respond to the complaint, wait for the case to go to the legal department, re-sign the complaint twice because of clerical mistakes and spend \$4,000 on legal fees, only to be told on June 5, 1987, that a hearing would be held but no date was given.

Would the minister care to comment on that?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Let me just comment in general by saying that one of the things we have done over the last while with the Ontario Human Rights Commission is to beef up the number of compliance officers. If memory serves me correctly, we had about 37 compliance officers, including perhaps one or two in the honourable member's area, when we took office. We have added more than two dozen additional compliance officers because of exactly the kind of point the honourable member alludes to, that is the unacceptably long delays.

Certainly, in listening to the litany of delay that the honourable member points out, I must say that seems like a very lengthy time. If the honourable member wishes to send details,

including the name of the constituent, over to me, I will check into this matter and get back to him. I would note to the honourable member that I hope, now that the matter is going to a board of inquiry, we will be able to get on with the board just as quickly as possible.

Mr. Gregory: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: To help me understand, the minister has asked me to supply the name. Perhaps the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) can comment on whether in fact I should be doing this when the case is being investigated.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is not a point of order.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Hayes: My question is to the Minister of Health. My office receives many calls and letters from people who are very upset because of the long delays in the waiting time for bookings for heart bypass surgery. One of my constituents, Cyril Chevalier, who is 61 years old, from Woodslee, needs a quadruple bypass. He was tested in October 1986, and his family has been calling every week trying to get a date on when Mr. Chevalier can go in for his surgery.

One of the key problems is that phase 2 of Victoria Hospital has not been approved, to my understanding. Can the minister tell us when he plans on giving the approval for Victoria Hospital, phase 2, so people like Mr. Chevalier and many others do not have to wait as long for their surgery?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I thank the honourable gentleman for the question. He would likely wish to acknowledge that the concern about setting the time frame in which bypass operations are to be held is a function of several things. One of them might be the question of the second phase of Victoria Hospital, but it also has something to do with the ranking that the physician gives to the particular condition that Mr. Chevalier is suffering from. There are a number of items which come together to determine the place for someone in the ranking of surgery priorities for the physician.

It is interesting to me that the member is bringing forward the concern that we expand in a substantial way our institutional sector when we have been urged by his Health critic to redirect our attention to other things. We have been now urged by two of the Health critic's colleagues, the member and the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner), to increase significantly the institutional sector at a time when we are trying to reorient ourselves towards community care and advantage those people who require a

flexibility of delivery of care systems in Ontario. I will, however, look into the question of Mr. Chevalier if the member is able to provide me with more details as to—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would like to ask the minister if he is aware that at Victoria Hospital there are 172 patients waiting for urgent cardiac surgery and at University Hospital in London, according to their annual report, there are 269 people awaiting cardiac surgery. These are people who, according to the annual report, are patients who are judged to require admission within 14 days because they are urgent cases, and the average waiting period is 70 to 80 days.

Why does the minister have enough money to buy off the doctors to end extra billing but he does not have enough money to deal with people who are in urgent need of bypass surgery in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I thank the honourable gentleman for his invitation to expand our institutional sector. I think he would like to acknowledge that the planning for the expansion of capital resources takes some time to put into place. It is also a function of a planning process that has been stymied over the past several years by a previous government that was unable to come to grips with the problem of the consumption of our capital structure in our hospital sector and, therefore, we sometimes find that we have lagged considerably behind in renewing our hospital sector to the state where it can deal with a number of these problems.

The particular list that the member has provided us is a good indication that he, like other people in his caucus, is now coming around to see that we do have a role to play in putting together a heightened institutional sector. I am really quite pleased that the New Democratic Party is now advocating a considerable expansion of the hospital and institutional sector at a time when they are telling us to reorient ourselves to community care.

ACID RAIN

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Apparently, according to the United States General Accounting Office, that country's main acid rain research program, the national acid participation program, has stopped studying the economic costs of acid rain and, from here on in, is studying only whether acid rain is a problem and the costs of abatement equipment. This is despite the fact that a maple tree that had a life expectancy of 300

years when the minister and I were children now has a life expectancy of less than 70 years. Thousands of our lakes are dying and the national Congress itself, the Capitol building, is being perceptibly eaten away by acid rain.

Does the minister feel that the report of the General Accounting Office is accurate that the United States research program seeks no positive action on acid rain, only justification of further research?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: If I may, over the din, I know the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) was going to ask this question next if it did not get asked this time.

Mr. Speaker: And the response is?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Yes, the response is this. When I was speaking to the American Bar Association just a short time ago, outlining the position of Ontario in this regard, I indicated at that time statistics which had been prepared for Senator Stafford, Senator Mitchell and Senator Proxmire, all of whom had bills before the United States Senate. All of this material contained good evidence which would demonstrate that there was more money to be made and better economic activity from the abatement of acid rain in the US Midwest than in attempting to avoid this particular piece of regulation.

It is my view that in fact the money would best be directed into demonstrating clearly again that there is a better economic benefit in the abatement of acid rain, whether it is here or in the United States, as opposed to spending the money on matters that would concern it otherwise.

1500

Mr. D. R. Cooke: There are 3,000 studies worldwide showing the costs of acid rain to humanity. Is the minister in possession of a number of these studies? If he is, is he prepared to forward these studies and perhaps have staff explain them to the United States acid rain participation program?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member for Kitchener makes an excellent suggestion.

Mr. Speaker, for the members of the House who would not be aware of this, and perhaps for you as well, it is interesting that this battle has been characterized as a confrontation between Canada and the United States when in fact the United States, at least through the administration, is out of step with the world on this issue of acid rain. For instance, there are a number of countries in Europe that are called the 30 to 50 per cent club, which have already made a

commitment to abate their acid rain by at least 50 per cent or a varying figure by the mid-1990s.

It seems to me the United States, at the suggestion of Canada and Ontario, should be following the same mode of action as have those in Europe and those of us in Canada on the issue of acid rain.

Mr. Andrewes: It must be a slow day in Brampton.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION

Mr. Andrewes: I wonder whether the Minister of Health could tell us why last year 340 people travelled from northeastern Ontario to New Hampshire for treatment for drug and alcohol problems at a cost of \$1 million to the Ontario taxpayer.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot comment on the figures the honourable gentleman has brought in. I do not have the basis upon which the decision, which was made by the individual people from northeastern Ontario, was made.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that, from my standpoint, probably one of the reasons is that there are not enough alcohol and drug addiction programs in place in Ontario. I can tell the member that there is probably the fact that some people wish to remain anonymous. Some may be enrolled in programs that are sponsored by corporate employers and deal directly with people from out of province. There could be other possible reasons that some people may have travelled to New Hampshire.

Mr. Andrewes: In a submission made to the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine), a number of community-based groups made that very point. I want to remind the minister and ask him why L'Arc-en-ciel, for instance, a treatment centre for young male drug addicts, closed in December 1986 for lack of funding, and why Foyer L'Espérance, a group home for young women, is in financial difficulty, currently living off support of the church and other community private donations.

If the minister can answer these questions and answer why there is a lack of community services in northern Ontario, some 4,500 people who are awaiting treatment at these facilities would be very grateful to him.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We recognize there is a great deal more to be done with respect to our addictions programs.

Mr. Martel: In southern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Not only in southern Ontario, I say to the member for Sudbury East,

but also in northern Ontario and right around this province. In fact, the member can tell the people in northern Ontario that we have allocated substantially increased funds to some of the programs in Timmins, Hearst and other places. We recognize that the increasing case load has to be dealt with, and we know that the success rate of the people who are operating these programs is generating an awful lot of interest among the community leaders in fact to develop more programs to assist in stamping out a very difficult personal problem.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that, as well, we have an indication in our throne speech that addictions programs for the youth of Ontario are a high priority of our government, and in fact will take an increasing part of our interest in providing an addictions treatment program right around the province.

We expect as well, in relation to the federal program, details of which we are unable yet to access, that we will be able to deal with the problem of addictions in a much broader and better way, in a co-operative fashion. I thank the member very much for bringing this—

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, the member for Welland-Thorold.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: I have just received a news release—two of them, in fact—from the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations or, perhaps more appropriately, the Minister of Financial Institutions, relative to the tabling in this House of what he has stated is his most important legislation dealing with auto insurance. I want to note the disrespect that the minister is showing for this House to have not tabled a statement so that the opposition parties could reply to it in this House.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Swart: The minister brings in this statement at the last minute. Is it not true that this is deliberate on his part so that this bill cannot be dealt with in this House, so that the rate review board cannot be set up before the summer, before the government calls the next election, so that the people will not know how much the rates are going to increase because of that rate review board?

Is this not deliberate on the minister's part to distort the whole process of the rate review board and to give the people of this province misleading information, so that in fact—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I know the member for Welland-Thorold was trying to be very careful there.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member for Welland-Thorold is giving his final display of absurdity in that statement. If I had made a statement—which I have made many times, I have told this House I am bringing in a whole package of reforms; the two bills I will be introducing this afternoon are part of that package—he would have had the opportunity of saying exactly what he said right now.

When he talks about the use of this House and the things that are going on, we had Bill 56, which his party could have dealt with in this House. They chose for political purposes not to do it. They have held 300,000 drivers in this province hostage for their crass political purposes.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

PETITIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Gordon: “To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

“I rise today to present a petition on behalf of the Croatian people of Ontario on a matter of grave concern for all free peoples, a matter involving an individual man, a man doing God’s work, who has been stripped of a most basic liberty by an undemocratic and tyrannical government.

“I speak of Father Simon Coric, a noted Croatian Franciscan priest, writer and artist, a man of international stature who carries on his pastoral work in every corner of the globe. Only a few weeks ago, Father Coric was detained by Yugoslav authorities and his passport has been confiscated.

“I speak for all concerned Canadians and the Croatian community in Canada in calling upon the Yugoslavian government to live up to the terms of the Helsinki agreement and the United Nations Charter of Rights and return to Father Coric his freedom to travel so he can continue his artistic and pastoral work. Father Coric has a major tour of Australia, which is home to a large and vibrant Croatian community, set to begin on July 3.”

1510

TRANSIT SERVICES

Ms. Caplan: I would like to table an additional 1,000 petitions on behalf of the residents of North York who have signed requesting that the government approve funding for the Sheppard subway line now.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Hayes: I have a petition signed by 2,803 people. It reads:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“That government auto insurance be implemented to stop excessive premiums and escalating rates, prevent cancellation or refusal to renew insurance, stop rates which victimize young male drivers with good driving records, stop the penalizing of all drivers in a household because of one driver’s poor driving record, stop discriminatory rate increases and ensure that all drivers can afford insurance they are legally required to have.”

MINISTRY EMPLOYEE

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a petition signed by 70 employees of the jail in Sault Ste. Marie:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, petition the Ministry of Correctional Services to reinstate Mr. Ole R. Thompsen, correctional officer 2, to the staff of the Sault Ste. Marie Jail in that he was unjustly fired and proven so by a jury of his peers.”

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Rowe: I have a petition:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario.

“We petition the Ontario Legislature to enact the recommendations of the Simcoe County District Health Council in April 1986 calling for the construction of a new hospital in the city of Barrie.”

It is signed by some 375 residents, which now brings the total to just over 4,000 residents.

HIGHWAY EXIT

Mr. Sterling: I have a petition:

“To the Lieutenant Governor:

"We, the citizens or merchants of Arnprior and west Carleton are opposed to the stopping of eastbound traffic at the above-mentioned exit. We request that the municipalities of Arnprior and west Carleton exert whatever pressure is necessary to have the Ministry of Transportation and Communications keep open, or reopen, this exit.

"Should the ministry, in their wisdom, consider this exit improperly designed for the safety of the travelling public, then we request that they spend the necessary funds to correct the design problem in a way which will still allow eastbound traffic to use this exit."

That is signed by over 1,000 residents.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Harris: I have a petition:

"To the Lieutenant Governor in Council:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to table a petition condemning the government for their underhanded, sneaky release during question period today on the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board Act and for not having the courtesy and forthrightness to make a statement on this matter."

It is signed by five very concerned members of the Ontario Legislature.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved first reading of Bill 106, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Motion agreed to.

BEDS OF NAVIGABLE WATERS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of Bill 107, An Act to amend the Beds of Navigable Waters Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: The bill would establish the high-water mark as the boundary of property described in the crown grant bounded by navigable water to provide a uniform interpretation in such cases.

AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS ACT

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved first reading of Bill 108, An Act respecting the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The intent of this act is to combine and replace three existing acts. They are the Agricultural Societies Act, the Horticultural Societies Act and the Agricultural Associations Act. The proposed act will streamline and update legislation affecting agricultural and horticultural societies and provincially based agricultural associations. The act will designate corporate status for organizations, define objectives for the societies and allow financial assistance programs to be maintained under the regulations.

The drafting of this act was done in full consultation with the affected organizations and their provincial associations. The current and future needs of the agricultural and horticultural bodies were a guiding influence in the bill's creation.

The three current acts were all established in the first decade of the 1900s and, despite amendments, they have become outmoded. This new bill provides enabling legislation to bring these important societies into present-day relevancy, and I would suggest we move on to second and third readings.

MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR ACT

Hon. Mr. Kwinter moved first reading of Bill 109, An Act to regulate Motor Vehicle Repairs.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE BOARD ACT

Hon. Mr. Kwinter moved first reading of Bill 110, An Act to establish the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board and to provide for the Review of Automobile Insurance Rates.

Motion agreed to.

HAMILTON CIVIC HOSPITALS ACT

Mr. Ward moved first reading of Bill Pr24, An Act respecting Hamilton Civic Hospitals.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 111, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of the bill is to allow boards under the Education Act to provide certain medical and insurance benefits to their retired employees and their spouses and children. The act as now worded allows boards to provide these benefits only to current employees and their

families, as some of the bargaining units have found out to their chagrin.

1520

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUMMER SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved resolution 11:

That the following standing and select committees be authorized to meet during the summer adjournment in accordance with the schedule of meeting dates agreed to by the three party whips and tabled with the Clerk of the assembly, to examine and inquire into the following matters:

Select committee on the environment to consider Niagara River toxic waste management.

Select committee on health to consider chronic care needs of the elderly.

Standing committee on general government to consider Bill 56, An Act to control temporarily Automobile Insurance Rates in Ontario, and to complete the report on the Teachers' Collective Negotiations Act.

Standing committee on government agencies to review the operation of certain agencies, boards and commissions of the government of Ontario.

Standing committee on the Legislative Assembly to consider matters related to the administration of the House and to adjourn to Indianapolis, Indiana, to attend the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Standing committee on the Ombudsman to consider the annual report of the Ombudsman and expanded jurisdiction of the Ombudsman.

Standing committee on public accounts to consider matters relating to its permanent terms of reference and to adjourn to Quebec City to attend the Ninth Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees.

Standing committee on resources development to consider Bill 149, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Standing committee on social development to consider Bill 80, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would point out a shortcoming in this lengthy motion establishing our committee schedule for the period between sessions, in that the standing committee on finance and economic affairs was somehow inadvertently overlooked. Therefore, I would like to move an amendment as follows:

"Standing committee on finance and economic affairs to consider federal tax reform proposals."

Mr. Speaker: You have all heard the amended motion. Any comments?

Mr. Ashe: I was of course going to rise to ask what happened to the finance and economic affairs committee, because the government has given a lot of lipservice to the importance of that committee but has not deemed, in its wisdom, particularly through the House leader, to afford it much opportunity to get into the various things that are on its plate.

We have now recognized it to some limited degree, but I think one of the other issues is already very obvious now as well. We heard earlier that the government, at the very least, is in a quandary and very ambivalent about the whole free trade issue and the impact upon Ontario. If only the government House leader would confer with the chairman of that particular committee, I think he would find that all members of that committee from all parties found a trip down to Washington in the early part of the year to be very helpful and very fruitful in really promoting the problems and concerns in the trade issues, related not only to free trade but also to the general trade issues vis-à-vis Canada and the United States, and most important, between Ontario and the United States.

In preparing its budget recently for the current fiscal year we are now in, that committee submitted to the board of internal economy, better known as the Board of Internal Economy, a budget that included a subsequent follow-up trip down to Washington, which was approved in a financial sense. Now the government has deemed it inappropriate for that committee to carry on the mandate that was given to it. I think we have to be very disappointed in that and have to challenge and ask the question: Does the government really care what happens vis-à-vis trade between Ontario and the United States of America?

Mr. McFadden: In last week's meeting of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, we had all-party agreement, as at previous meetings, that as a committee we should attend at Washington to talk to members of Congress and members of the administration immediately before the projected return of the Legislature, to discuss with American officials the current trade discussions going on.

We expect that by October 5, one way or another, we will either have a trade accord or we will not. If we have an agreement, it would be important at that time at least to find out what the American attitude is on this agreement and what an appropriate Ontario response should be to the

accord, based upon American reaction to it in Congress.

Second, by early October it will be pretty clear what the omnibus trade legislation now being considered by Congress will be. It will be clear by then the kind of trade hurdles Ontario industry will have to deal with, starting at the end of this year, as the new major trade legislation becomes law in the US.

It struck every member of the committee, from all parties, that the first week in October was a particularly important week for Ontario in terms of its trade relations with the US.

The select committee on economic affairs recommended strongly in its report to this House about a year ago that it was important that legislative committees of this House visit the US—and of course, legislative committees of the US should come here—to encourage a greater exchange of information and better understanding of the problems between our two countries. There has never been a time when that is more needed than today, in view of what is happening in Washington and the important trade issues that are going on there.

It is very disturbing that at this time the notice of motion presented by the government House leader made no mention whatsoever of any form of committee meetings, hearings, visits or anything else in relation to international trade, and particularly our trade relations with the United States. We hear about how important all this is. We hear discussions of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) complaining about Ottawa's consultation, nonconsultation or whatever. We know that every party in this House is worried and concerned about the impact of what is going on today in Washington, as well as of what is going on in Ottawa, in terms of trade. There is not a single mention of any hearings or meetings to take place that are being authorized by the government House leader during the term of the adjournment.

I think it is a very serious omission. It completely omits one of the most vital single issues facing this province and this country. I think it shows just a complete disregard for the importance of those issues. I do not know what the agenda of the government is on this. Maybe it does not want any discussion to take place of a public nature. Maybe the government's strategy is for this committee not to carry on and involve the public or learn what is really happening.

I do not know what the hidden agenda is, but I think it is incredible that at this point in Canada's history, this committee should be denied the right

to get on with having hearings on trade and visiting Washington, in view of the vital importance of the entire trade issue to Ontario and in view of the current developments on the entire trade front. I urge the House leader to reconsider this motion and, in line with the agreement of all parties who were on the committee, that we be provided with the time that was requested by the committee last week.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: There was not agreement among the whips that the committee trip to Washington occur. The committee has been there twice, and I think that is just great. Honestly, this is a motion that could be amended, as far as I know, by anybody. Why does the member not say that he would like to go to Washington and then we will see about that? I do not have any strong feelings about this.

Mr. Breagh: At the invitation of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon)—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I appreciate that. I just wanted you to realize that I had asked if any other members wished to participate. No one had risen.

Mr. Breagh: I know that.

Mr. Speaker: Now the government House leader has suggested that if there is consent of the House—

Mr. Breagh: I just want to help him. I do not really want to speak to the motion, but would he accept a friendly amendment to allow the committee to travel to Washington?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Yes.

Mr. Breagh: He would. I will so move.

Mr. Speaker: I am having a little difficulty. There is an amendment to the motion, and now there is a verbal amendment to the amendment. I have the main motion. I have not received the amendment or the subamendment yet. Then I would know.

Hon. Mr. Nixon has moved an amendment adding to the original motion. It reads:

"Standing committee on finance and economic affairs to consider federal tax reform proposals."

Then there was a subamendment by Mr. Breagh, "and to travel to Washington." Are you aware of what is contained?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am not sure of all the ramifications of it.

Mr. Speaker: So? Is it permissible to place the—

Hon. Mr. Nixon: That is fine.

Mr. Speaker: On the subamendment, the member for Eglinton.

Mr. McFadden: The trip to Washington is not the relevant issue here. We are not going to Washington anyway to deal with federal tax reform. The point I made was that we have the further provision to consider federal tax reform proposals and to consider Canada-US trade. I do not believe the trip to Washington is necessarily a relevant addition. If we want to add that as a caveat to the consideration of Canada-US trade, that is fine, but just to simply add a trip to Washington is completely irrelevant in that respect because we are not going to Washington to consider federal tax reform proposals as that would indicate.

1530

Mr. Speaker: We have the motion, the amendment and the amendment to the amendment. I know every member has the right to vote for or against it as he wishes. I will place the amendment to the amendment, which would add to the original motion, "Standing committee on finance and economic affairs to consider federal tax reform proposals and to travel to Washington."

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, we have the amended amendment. All those in favour of the amended amendment?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of the amended motion?

Motion agreed to.

GREAT LAKES BIBLE COLLEGE ACT

Mr. Andrewes moved second reading of Bill Pr5, An Act respecting Great Lakes Bible College.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

House in committee of the whole.

LANDLORD AND TENANT AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 10, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Mr. Chairman: We have in front of us Bill 10, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act. Are there any comments, questions or amendments, and if so, to what section?

Mr. Reville: I do not believe there are any amendments, so I move the committee do now rise and report.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Reville moves that the committee rise and report.

Is it the pleasure of the committee that the motion carry? Carried.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Now wait a minute.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, are you going to carry the sections first? We have another bill to do.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We have another bill to do.

Mr. McClellan: Why do we not carry all the sections before we move the bill?

Mr. Breagh: Perhaps I could assist. As we are in committee, it would assist us somewhat, procedurally, if we carry the sections of the bill before we report it. Could we do that?

Mr. Chairman: Do we have unanimous consent to revert to prior to that motion?

Mr. Breagh: I seek unanimous consent to do that.

Mr. Chairman: Do we have unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

Mr. Breagh: Now let the government House leader move the sections.

Mr. Chairman: I repeat that members have a chance to say whether they have any comments, questions or amendments, and if so, to what sections. There appear to be none.

Sections 1 through 9, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

RETAIL BUSINESS HOLIDAYS AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 188, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments, and if so, to what sections?

Mr. Ashe: I understand that the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes) has an amendment to section 1. My amendments come after the first one he was going to make.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: If I might be helpful to the honourable member whose bill we are considering, we might—I have sent for the minister. I understand he is in the precincts and we expect him here any moment. If not, we will proceed without the amendments. I think the honourable member has some amendments, so let us do his with the understanding that we may request to revert. I do not think it is the end of the world if we do not.

Mr. McClellan: Here he is.

Mr. Ashe: I will step down and allow the Solicitor General to present his first amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Minister, you have some amendments. Do not move them. I just want a listing of them, please.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I have amendments to sections 1, 2 and 3.

Mr. Chairman: The chair has a section 1 amendment on one sheet and section 2 and 3 amendments on another. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: That is correct.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other comments, questions or amendments, and if so, to what sections?

Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, therein is part of the dilemma. My amendments pertain to what are now subsections 1(2) and 1(3), but if the first amendment of the Solicitor General carries, they will be renumbered as subsections 2(2) and 2(3), so I will pass those on. If that utterly confuses you, that is fine.

Mr. Chairman: Let us deal with them in their present numbering, subsections 1(2) and 1(3).

Are there further comments, questions or amendments, and if so, to what section?

Ms. Bryden: Are we dealing with the amendment to section 1?

Mr. Chairman: It has not yet been moved, but I am asking for comments, questions or amendments to various sections.

Ms. Bryden: Okay.

Mr. Chairman: You wish to discuss the section 1 amendment. Is that correct?

Ms. Bryden: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. It will be moved later.

On section 1:

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Mr. Keyes moves that section 1 of Bill 188 be renumbered as section 2 and that the bill be amended by adding thereto the following section:

"1. Section 2 of the Retail Business Holidays Act, being chapter 453 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1980, is amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(3) No person carrying on a retail business in a retail business establishment, and no person acting on behalf of such a person, shall counsel or require any person to contravene subsection 2."

1540

Mr. Chairman: Minister, we are having a wee bit of trouble finding where this relates to the existing bill. In the existing bill, the entire section 1 deals with clause 3. Then section 2 is royal assent and section 3 is the title. Your

amendment appears to deal with section 2, which is not in the original bill. Can you help me out there?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: What it is doing is adding a section within this particular bill, Bill 188, about which I spoke to the proposer of the bill. If you wish, I can give you a very brief comment on it. It is amending Bill 188 by adding a section within it; amendment by addition.

Mr. Chairman: It appears as if you are adding on or amending sections in the original act that are not referred to in this bill in front of us, the bill of the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe). Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: Yes, that is one way of looking at it. What I am doing, however, is amending the bill proposed by the member for Durham West by adding a section to that bill that does pertain to the original Retail Business Holidays Act.

Mr. Chairman: In that case, I must rule it is out of order. I refer you to page 233 of Beauchesne, the fifth edition. That is not permissible because you are doing exactly what you stated you are doing. It is not within the bill of the member for Durham West.

Are there any other comments on subsection 1? Subsection 1(2)?

Mr. Ashe: I will have to give you a new motion relative to the fact that the first motion was ruled out of order. If I may, I will read the first one. This relates to subsection 1(2).

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Ashe moves clause 3(3)(d) of the act, as set out in subsection 1(2) of the bill, be amended by adding at the end thereof "provided that no other goods are available for sale except as sundries, the number of persons engaged in the service of the public in the establishment does not at any time exceed three and the total area used for serving the public or for selling or displaying to the public in the establishment is less than 2,400 square feet."

Mr. Ashe: I move this particular amendment rather reluctantly. I personally have some misgivings that my bill, as it relates to bookstores and art galleries, should be under the size and staffing restrictions. Having said that, I recognize that this recommendation came through unanimously from a select committee of this Legislature with representatives, of course, from all three parties. I respect their suggestion and recommendation in this regard and that is why I am moving the amendment.

As I mentioned, I personally really do not see how the size restrictions apply to these particular

retailing establishments because I think they can operate so differently in the way of the kinds of services they operate. They are narrow in nature and yet the bigger the size, the better the service they can provide to the public.

Again, recognizing the reality of the committee system and the realities and practicalities of the recommendation being brought forward by the committee has prompted me to move this amendment.

Ms. Bryden: I am glad we have finally got to the committee stage of Bill 188 because I think all parties have been pretty well agreed that there was an anomaly in relation to the situation with bookstores under the Retail Business Holidays Act. Video stores could stay open and drug stores could sell books, along with other items, on Sundays and holidays, but bookstores could not be open legally on Sundays. This section, as amended, brings in bookstores. The select committee on retail store hours also recommended that bookstores should be added to the establishments that were exempt from the act and therefore able to open on Sundays and holidays. The New Democratic Party members on that committee supported that recommendation.

I think all members of our party also support the bill and the amendment that narrows down the exemption, and narrows it down in a way that may narrow down all exemptions if the Retail Business Holidays Act is amended further. At the moment, it narrows it down to small bookstores, to ones that do not employ more than three people on Sunday, and the total area for serving the public would be not more than 2,400 square feet. I think that is a valuable amendment to provide provision for Sunday opening for small bookstores, where people consider it more of an educational and recreational activity on a Sunday or holiday to browse before they purchase or even just to browse. I think it has been an anomaly that all of us would like to see removed. Therefore, all members of our party are supporting this amendment of the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe).

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I rise to support the amendment because we have supported the concept behind the bill, but we do feel it was rather negligent in not addressing the issues. Since the time was not quite available to us to do a very comprehensive bill that included all the amendments of the committee, it is my intention to support this amendment brought in by the member for Durham West and also to try to improve the other sections of the bill. That is why I rose on the amendment.

I do support the inclusion of the bookstores that are in here and the sizes and the staffing. Again, it will not satisfy all the persons who are in the business of retailing books, but it is one that has been recommended by the committee and applies to the other exemptions and therefore we support it.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further comments? Shall the amendment of the member for Durham West to subsection 1(2) carry?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Ashe moves that subsection 3(3a) of the act, as set out in subsection 1(3) of the bill, be amended by striking out "of a retail business on a holiday in an art gallery" in the second line and inserting in lieu thereof "of the retail business of an art gallery on a holiday, where on that day the number of persons engaged in the service of the public in the art gallery does not at any time exceed three and the total area used for serving the public or for selling or displaying to the public in the art gallery is less than 2,400 square feet."

Mr. Ashe: My comments relative to subsection 1(2) are also appropriate for subsection 1(3) so I am not going to repeat them. Again, I have the opportunity to thank the House, of course, the government and the members of the third party for supporting this bill. I think it will correct some anomalies that have been in operation in the marketplace and it recognizes finally and legally the fact that bookstores in the first section and art galleries in this one are a form, if you will, of a different kind of entertainment.

Some like to go to the horse races, some like to go to sporting events and in this case we have people who like to browse and shop for art. In the previous section, those people who like to browse and shop for good books will now have the opportunity, hopefully by this weekend, to be able to do so legally.

1550

Ms. Bryden: I also support this amendment for the same reasons I supported the previous one. I do not think that adopting these two amendments, which are correcting anomalies and extending the idea that bookstores and art galleries are more than just commercial sales outlets and are recreational as well, breaches the basic thrust of the report of the select committee on retail store hours, which said it felt that Ontario still needed a pause day where there was a limitation on commercial activities. But they also felt that bookstores and art galleries were somewhat different in category from most

commercial activities and recommended that both of these extensions should be made. That is why we are supporting this and are still, at the same time, in favour of a pause day as the basic thrust of our legislation.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: In supporting the amendment, I too recognize that we will not be satisfying some part of the public that feels there are family activities on a Sunday just as entertaining as going to an art gallery. There are many of those I could think of, and many have been suggested to us in letters and petitions of one nature and another. But short of a full-blown review of the act, in order to keep the intent of the common day of pause, we too have agreed that art galleries should be included as one of those exemptions as long as they adhere to the restrictions placed on them by the current legislation.

Motion agreed to.

Section 1, as amended, agreed to.

On section 2:

Hon. Mr. Keyes: Again, I would like to move that the bill as printed be amended by renumbering sections 2 and 3 as sections 4 and 5 and by adding thereto the following section—I have the amendment, but I do not want to pre-guess. You ruled out another amendment that I did not consider to be out of order. I will not challenge you, but I do not consider it to be out of order.

Mr. McClellan: Did you have a legal opinion from the Attorney General (Mr. Scott)?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: No, but I will move anyway that the bill, as printed, be amended by renumbering sections 2 and 3 as sections 4 and 5 and by adding thereto the following section:

“3. Section 7 of the said act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

“7. Every person who contravenes section 2 is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more \$50,000 and, in determining the amount of the fine, the court shall take into consideration any evidence respecting the gross sales in the retail business establishment on the holiday on which the contravention occurred.

“8(1) Upon the application of counsel for the Solicitor General to the Supreme Court, the court may make any order that is necessary to ensure compliance with this act by a party named in the application.

“(2) An order under subsection (1) is in addition to any penalty that may be imposed under section 7 and may be made whether or not proceedings have been commenced in the pro-

vincial offences court for a contravention of section 2.”

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. For two reasons—the one that was enumerated before and that your amendment is beyond the scope of the bill—for both reasons, for each reason, it is out of order.

Sections 2 and 3 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

LOI DE 1987 SUR LES CONFLITS D'INTÉRÊTS DES MEMBRES DE L'ASSEMBLÉE

Consideration of Bill 23, An Act to provide for greater Certainty in the Reconciliation of the Personal Interests of Members of the Assembly and the Executive Council with their Duties of Office.

Étude du projet de loi 23, Loi assurant une plus grande certitude quant au rapprochement des intérêts personnels des membres de l'Assemblée et du Conseil des ministres avec les devoirs de leurs fonctions.

Mr. Chairman: We have in front of us Bill 23. Are there any comments, questions or amendments, and if so, to what section?

Mr. Harris: Nobody knows what to do do here, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: I have a sheaf of yellow sheets in front of me which appear to be amendments.

Mr. McClellan: Why do you not follow the procedure of asking if there are any amendments to any section and then carry the sections?

Mr. Chairman: I have already asked that question. Having heard no comments, questions or amendments to the bill, shall sections 1 to 19, inclusive, stand as part of the bill?

Sections 1 to 19, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

Le projet de loi devra faire l'objet d'un rapport.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of the whole House reported two bills without amendment and one bill with certain amendments.

THIRD READINGS

The following bills were given third reading on motion:

Bill 10, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Bill 188, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

LOI DE 1987 SUR LES CONFLITS D'INTÉRÊTS DES MEMBRES DE L'ASSEMBLÉE

Hon. Mr. Scott moved third reading of Bill 23, An Act to provide for greater Certainty in the Reconciliation of the Personal Interests of Members of the Assembly and the Executive Council with their Duties of Office.

L'hon. M. Scott propose la troisième lecture du projet de loi 23, Loi assurant une plus grande certitude quant au rapprochement des intérêts personnels des membres de l'Assemblée et du Conseil des ministres avec les devoirs de leurs fonctions.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mr. Scott has moved third reading of Bill 23. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Harris: Excuse me. I was busy getting the report on Bill 85.

1600

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Harris moves that the motion for third reading of Bill 23 be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following therefor:

"Bill 23, An Act to Provide for greater Certainty in the Reconciliation of the Personal Interests of Members of the Assembly and the Executive Council with their Duties of Office, be not now read a third time but be recommitted to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of holding public hearings on the bill and then pursuing clause-by-clause consideration of the bill and reporting back to this House."

Mr. Harris: I do not plan to speak at great length, but I do plan to get a few things on the record on Bill 23 and particularly, of course, the handling of this bill.

Before I do that, let me thank my colleague the House leader for the third party for the drafting of the motion. I lifted that from a similar motion earlier this session. I thought it worked very well at that time and I have no doubt it will work very well this time as well.

Let me first of all say that our party does not disagree with the need for something far different from what has been going on for more than two years now in this Legislature. We are not

opposed to a bill or a piece of legislation to assist with the process of conflict of interest.

While I am mentioning conflict of interest, I know at the very end of Bill 23, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) says the short title of the act is the Members' Conflict of Interest Act, 1987, but if you were to read the title of the act, it appears that far more consideration and craft went into coming up with a title for this particular piece of legislation than there was with the actual content of the legislation itself.

An Act to provide for greater Certainty in the Reconciliation of the Personal Interests of Members of the Assembly and the Executive Council with their Duties of Office: typical of the public relations style we have seen with this government on a number of very significant issues, and on this particular issue, of the abject failure of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) not only to enforce reasonable guidelines—the first thing he did was to weaken the guidelines that were in place when we took office, those that were established by Mr. Davis—

Mr. Gillies: Substantially.

Mr. Harris: Substantially, I might add. The second thing he did was then to ignore them totally.

Mr. Andrewes: I might add.

Mr. Harris: I might add. I am getting lots of help here, I might add.

After having first weakened them and then ignored them, when problems began to develop, he tried to wash his hands of the whole affair, and that really comes to the heart and the core of a Premier's responsibilities: that is, from among those people he has available to him, to appoint people to positions of responsibility, such as cabinet ministers and parliamentary assistants and, I might add, senior civil servants, which is not in this bill. I do not know why. When we finish with it next fall, it will be, I think, in this bill, and some of the senior staff and appointments.

Most successful business people will tell you that the secret of their success is the people they surrounded themselves with, the people they appointed to positions of responsibility and who make things happen. It is a very important matter, and just the title of the act itself indicates the whitewash with which the government has treated a very serious responsibility that the Premier of the province has.

Mr. Davis: Coverup.

Mr. Gillies: Coverup.

Mr. Harris: It is not the only thing that has been covered up by this government, I might add as well.

Mr. Gillies: That is right.

Mr. Harris: Somebody is going to say, "I might add."

Mr. Gillies: I might add.

Mr. Harris: It really comes to one of the most important functions the Premier has. We have here in Ontario, and have had for a couple of years, a Premier who, like Pontius Pilate, wants to wash his hands of this responsibility, wash his hands of the whole affair. When things go well, he wants the credit: "David Peterson, I am the man. I am the boy. I did this." When things go wrong, he wants to wash his hands of the whole affair.

I do not think I have to remind the members of this Legislature of the number of things that have gone wrong, even with the watered-down guidelines the Premier has brought into place.

Mr. Davis: Tell us what they were.

Mr. Gillies: What were they?

Mr. Davis: Spell them out again.

Mr. Harris: If they will feed them to me one at a time, I will get them out.

Mr. Gillies: The Wyda problems.

Mr. Harris: There were the Wyda problems, the problems with—

Mr. Gillies: Graham Software.

Mr. Harris: —Graham Software, with the member for Oriole (Ms. Caplan), with the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) and, quite frankly, with the current Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). In fact, as we found out today, the whole executive council and the Premier, the whole lot of them including the Premier, have blatantly violated section 6 of this new act. When the Premier was asked about it today he said: "Yes, that is what we want to do. It is good legislation and it is sound and it is all ready, but it is not law yet so we do not have to go along with that now. It is not law."

Conflict of interest, morality and these types of issues are ones that really should not have to be in legislation at all. Surely if there is any integrity in the office of the first minister of this province, we would not need any type of legislation.

Hon. Mr. Scott: —never had it.

Mr. Gillies: It was never needed until you beggars took over.

Mr. Harris: It was never needed, either.

Mr. Gillies: Now we need bars. We need individual cells for each minister.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis) and the Attorney General are all disturbing and upsetting the House. I might say to the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) that that statement is getting awfully close to the line about saying there is no integrity in the office of the Premier.

Mr. Harris: I agree with you on that, Mr. Speaker.

[Laughter]

Mr. Harris: Let me go on. I welcome the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Make him withdraw. What kind of Speaker are we having here? Are we all going to laugh at the member or he is going to withdraw?

The Deputy Speaker: I can do without the verbal assistance of the Attorney General.

The member is too close to the line. I believe his words were, "If there was any integrity in the office of the Premier, we would not need this act." I believe you should withdraw. That implies there is no integrity in the office of the Premier.

Mr. Harris: I agree with you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: That is not good enough. Would you please withdraw that?

Mr. Harris: I would be happy to withdraw anything I have said that has offended you, but I do agree with your statements, Mr. Speaker. I want that on the record.

Let me say that I welcome some of the interjections because it really does get to a statement I made earlier that we do see a need for a piece of legislation for the first time in the history of this province. Why do we need a piece of legislation now? We have not needed it in all the years of the history of this province and under all the former Premiers. We had never seen a member of the public, a member of this Legislature that I can recall in a major way from any party or a reporter for any of the major media come forward and say that Ontario needs a new law to control conflict of interest until this bunch of rascals took office a little over two years ago. I suggest the current Premier has set new, low, embarrassing standards for this province.

1610

Very briefly as well, I want to talk a little bit about the bill. I do not want to go into all the

major amendments we have tabled and, were it not for this motion I am speaking to now, would have spent considerable time debating. After we have heard some expert opinion from other provinces, from other jurisdictions, from those who may be affected—as my leader pointed out today, perhaps Mr. Lévesque may want to make an appearance; His Honour Judge Cadsby may want to appear, too, to talk about what happens and the problems he foresees for justice in this province when a member of the executive council is allowed to run rampant over any form of guidelines that may be there.

I am not going to go through all the amendments, but I do want to talk very briefly about some of the thrusts of this particular piece of legislation we are not very happy with.

Hon. Mr. Scott: You do not have to. The die is cast.

Mr. Harris: The Attorney General, the eyes of the province, even though all of Ontario is watching him, is still very quick to interject and to speak out of place.

When this bill was in committee for a very brief time, I might say the Attorney General and his staff could not answer very simple, straightforward questions on what this particular piece of legislation meant. Today, when questioned by my leader, the Premier did not have a clue what section 6 meant vis-à-vis a very glaring example, one that surely any other Premier would in conscience have tried to wrestle with over his two years in cabinet, parliamentary assistantship, and then out to get his stuff and back into parliamentary assistantship and all that.

The Premier did not know. Then he consulted with the Attorney General, and that today was mistake number one, because I do not think the answer we got back from the Attorney General will be accepted by very many other learned members of the law, certainly not by this assembly.

Mr. Gillies: Or Judge Cadsby.

Mr. Harris: Certainly not by Judge Cadsby. Judge Cadsby would not agree with that.

There are some general areas of some of our amendments that we wanted to look at. I guess one of them would be the title of the act, which I said earlier epitomizes the entire charade this government likes to put on matters.

As well, my colleague the member for St. George (Ms. Fish) has placed an amendment we have tabled with all parties and with the table, one she feels very strongly about. She pointed out that her interpretation of this bill, and I concur with it, establishes two classes of MPPs

based on sexual orientation. I know that, had we had to proceed with this bill, she was prepared and still will be, to proceed at some length with just that one aspect of the bill.

I might add as well that we feel this bill that requires private members to disclose their interests should not be required. I will tell members why. We believe that private members should have to abide by the provision regarding bribes, undue influence, gifts, having to disclose a conflict of interest if a matter is before the House or in committee, and in any matter that they have a personal interest. These rules are the rules that private members have lived by in the province for years. They have lived by them under the Legislative Assembly Act, and they have served the people of Ontario well.

Name one problem that has arisen because of a conflict of a private member. There is an old rule, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Nobody has shown me one example in the history of the province of a private member who has had a problem because of conflict of interest and that in fact the rules under the Legislative Assembly Act have not applied.

That is not why there was seen to be a necessity for this bill. It was not because of private members; it was because of the conflict problems of the members of the executive council.

This assembly does not vote for the members of the executive council. This assembly does not vote for the parliamentary assistants. The people of Ontario do not vote for the members of the executive council. The people of Ontario do not vote for deputy ministers, for senior staff or for any other of these senior positions, parliamentary assistants or cabinet ministers. One man is responsible for all those: the Premier of the province. That is where the responsibility belongs. That is the parliamentary democratic system. The first guy I have heard come along and say "No, I want to wash my hands, I do not want that responsibility" is this Premier, and that is not acceptable to us.

Private members are not privy to confidential information, they are not apprised of government policy that is being considered, and consequently we do not see the need for disclosure by private members as a real one. We see it as one trumped up by the present government for political purposes, trying to hide the real issues that have prompted this bill to be introduced.

This bill removes from the Premier the responsibility for overseeing compliance and determining enforcement when the act is breached and tries to put it on a commissioner of the

assembly. Our amendments would bring some of that responsibility back where it belongs, to the man who is responsible for appointing all those people. That is the Premier.

As well, we are looking at amendments to include senior civil servants, senior ministerial staff and parliamentary assistants. I do not see parliamentary assistants in this bill, other than treated as a regular member, in spite of the confidential information they have access to and the responsibilities they have.

We have many concerns with this bill, and I guess in moving the motion we are moving today we are not satisfied with the reasons for this bill, we are not satisfied with a number of the sections of the bill, we are not satisfied it goes nearly far enough in a number of areas, and we have been very dissatisfied with the answers we have been getting in the House, in committee and anywhere else to questions of conflict and the answers we have not been getting on the interpretation of what this bill means.

For some partisan political reason, to allow the Premier of this province to ram a bill through in a hurry without hearing from other jurisdictions, without hearing from people who may be affected—and we heard a glaring example today from one who was affected—is not good government, does not make sense, and I would urge all members of this House to support this motion to send this bill to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly.

1620

Mr. Rae: I want to spend a few moments indicating my support for the procedural motion that has been moved by the member for Nipissing. I think it is important for us to understand some of the history of this issue and of this bill and for us to clearly understand why public hearings are, it seems to me, something that is in the public interest and something that makes a good deal of sense.

This issue has bedevilled the politics of this province for quite a long time. I can remember as a law student just across the park listening with interest in the early 1970s as various allegations of conflict and scandal literally rocked the Davis cabinet and the Davis government. There were, I think, several buildings that were built, and a question as to what extent they were moved by public tender, a question of the publicity surrounding a number of issues, the question of ministers of the cabinet holding public land which was then sold, and the question of information which cabinet ministers had. But, indeed, I think it would be wrong for us to simply

limit this to the last few years or even the last decade.

The standards with respect to public life have evolved over a very extended period of time. I can speak from anecdotal evidence and, indeed, from evidence of which I am aware. As recently as 20 or 30 years ago, it was not unusual for cabinet ministers of the federal and provincial governments to have shares, to know what those shares were and to trade in those shares, and for there to be seen that there would be no problem.

Of course, there are obvious examples where scandals have emerged from time to time with respect to particular conflicts—ministers getting caught with their fingers in the cookie jar and people being shown to be in clear breach of their public trust. But for a very long time it was not seen as a breach of public trust for ministers of the crown to have very extensive private business holdings which would continue to operate, and they certainly would have no conflict of interest.

For example, did C. D. Howe have a trust fund? I do not know. Did he have a blind trust? Does anybody seriously think ministers of that era seriously divested themselves entirely of their interests? I do not believe so. I do not think they would have been expected to do so. I do not think they did. In fact, for the Liberals and Tories of that time, not only did they not have to set up blind trusts for their own holdings, but also trusts were set up for them.

What is fascinating when one reads the history of Canada is that virtually all political leaders of the Liberal Party in Canada, until very recently—I am speaking federally now—had special funds that were set up for them by their friends in the Liberal Party, in the words of one observer, “so they would not have to worry about money.”

Mackenzie King was not born a person of great wealth, but when he died he left very substantial sums of money. That was not regarded as something extraordinary, weird or strange. Presumably, the people who were involved in supporting him were very much involved in supporting his interests and his lifestyle and in saying: “Here is the money. Do not ask where it came from.”

I give this bit of history so that it becomes clear precisely what the problem is and how it has evolved. I want to state very clearly and categorically that I do not agree with the member for Nipissing that we do not need a law. I do not agree with the member for Nipissing when he says we do not need a law that pertains and applies to private members as well as public members.

In fact, I took the occasion to make my views known on this matter on August 29, 1986, nearly a year ago, when I wrote a letter to Mr. Aird, who had been asked by the Premier to study this question. I set out then in that letter, which was a public letter, precisely what my own personal views are. I think they are shared by a number of my colleagues. They have been expressed in committee and on a number of occasions, but I want to set out precisely what they are.

I think the first point that has to be made is that politics cannot be, is not and should not be in any way a rich person's game, nor should it be something one enters out of a spirit of private advancement or private interest. That has to be stated quickly, categorically and without any compromise whatsoever.

In order to make that clear to the public and in order for the public to recognize that question, it seems to me crucial that we do one basic thing, and that is to set up a law which is broad, which is tough, which is uncompromising, which is effective, which is categorical, which is clear, and if I may say so, that is not the law which we have, drafted by the Attorney General and standing in his name.

As I said in my letter to Mr. Aird, it seems to me what is required is a law that applies to everybody but that also has some very special rules and requirements with respect to members of the cabinet and with respect to members who are in the government.

The member for Nipissing said that private members do not know of any government decisions, or are not aware and do not have any information. I can say I do not think that is true with respect to members on the government side. I do not believe, for example, that private members who have been given a special responsibility and a special task by the Premier—for example, long after the member for Cochrane North was out of the cabinet and a private member, he was travelling on government business all over the province; he was given special responsibilities for travel by the Premier; he was clearly given responsibility for northern travel.

That travel extended to going across the north, to setting up the economic development committees, to attending in the ridings of members of all parties, and explaining that if they wanted to do business with the government, they had to understand that they had to have a government member in order to do that; that if they wanted to get anywhere in this world, they had to have a Liberal Party member in order to do that. The

member for Cochrane North was doing that. He is still doing it today as a parliamentary assistant. He has been going around the province doing that ever since he got into politics.

I say to the government, that is the reason I think this legislation has to apply very toughly both to private members and to members of cabinet. But I also say to my colleagues in the Conservative Party that the one point I share with them is the procedural point that these are questions which must be thoroughly examined and on which the public has a right to be heard very directly and on which we need to draw on the expertise and the experience of a great many jurisdictions in drafting and producing this legislation.

It is well known that Sinclair Stevens, the federal member for York Centre, has had his affairs subjected to a very extensive scrutiny by Mr. Justice Parker. I do not know when Mr. Justice Parker's inquiry is coming down. I would anticipate that it would be in the reasonably near future. I would think, and I am sure the Attorney General would agree, given, I am sure, the sense of fraternity which he has with the results of the Parker inquiry—

An hon. member: He has seen it.

Mr. Rae: Maybe he has; I do not know whether he has seen it or not. I am not alleging that for an instant. What I am saying is that kind of document, that kind of presentation, that kind of presence, that kind of discussion is a very useful one, it is one which we need to have and one which I think all members want to be involved in.

There is a very real question, and I know it is one that has raised some concerns in other parts of the House and has indeed received some commentary in the newspapers. There is a concern that perhaps the legislation should not apply to spouses or should not apply to children under the age of 21 or under the age of 18.

There are questions about the modern family. I myself take the view that if marriage is a partnership and if both partners are going to benefit and do in fact benefit from the private circumstances of a member of the Legislature, it is impossible for conflict-of-interest rules not to apply to a marriage and not to apply to a marriage partner. It is inconceivable to me, in the light of the partnership which marriage is, that we would not make it apply in some way.

Nevertheless, I want to say I am interested in hearing the points of view of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. I am interested in hearing the points of view of a

number of groups that have expressed concern about whether this would in fact create undue hardship for some people.

Finally, I want to stress that I think it crucial that we give in this law the power on the part of the commissioner, a clear and explicit power, to order the divesting of private economic interests when, in the view of the commission, that is the best way to resolve any problem with respect to conflict or indeed any possible view that there might be a conflict of interest.

Let me state, as I did to Mr. Aird, my preference is a basic rule that people who are in the cabinet should not have extensive private holdings.

1630

I find it ironic that this is objected to by a great many members; yet if one looks at the experience of members entering the Reagan administration, even they had to divest themselves of many of their economic interests. They did not want to do it. They were reluctant to do it. They felt it was onerous for them to have to do it. I can remember watching the hearings in which Mr. Regan, who is now gone, was named the Secretary of the Treasury and assistant to the President. He said, "I am having to sell everything in order to comply with guidelines."

I want to state categorically that under the guidelines of the Premier, you would not have to sell anything. Why is that? I will tell you why it is. It is because the Premier of this province has always had the view that the Davis guidelines were unreasonably tough. He has always had the view that they were tough, and that is why he changed them.

I do not know what went on around that cabinet table and I do not know what discussions went on with Mary Eberts, but what I do know is that, as a result of the discussions which Mary Eberts had with members of the cabinet, the Davis guidelines were not toughened up. The Davis guidelines were weakened, and those are the guidelines that are contained in this legislation.

That is the problem the Liberal Party is trying to get around, as always. I cannot understand the public relations bubble that surrounds this government. I watch it with a sense of bemusement and astonishment. I saw on the news the other night the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) being quoted as the government House leader saying the opposition was preventing the Liberals from passing tough conflict-of-interest rules.

[Applause]

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer is applauding his own statement, which is exactly what one would anticipate, but I want to say for the record that that is absolute nonsense. I think the Treasurer and government House leader knows better than that. Perhaps he does not, in which case I will inform him. These are not tough guidelines. These are weaker guidelines, weaker even than those introduced by Mr. Davis. I think it is time we had government rules and basic laws in place that are in fact tougher than the Davis guidelines, because I think there were problems with even the approach taken by Premier Davis.

I do not know what the problem is. There is nothing wrong with having public hearings. I hear people say the bill is being hoisted and the bill is being hiked. Somebody else said to me the bill is being killed. Nothing could be further from the truth. This House is ongoing. The House will adjourn today if the current mood—

Mr. McClellan: Recess.

Mr. Rae: It will recess for a few weeks. We do not know for how long. It can come back at any time. Was the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) saying, when he introduced his legislation today, that he introduced the legislation in order for it to be killed two hours later? Would the minister do that? Would he introduce a bill just so it could be slaughtered? I do not believe that. I do not believe he would do that to this baby bill, this little flower. Would he do that to this little flower?

Mr. McClellan: Only the Toronto Star would believe that.

Mr. Rae: Only the Toronto Star. Would the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye), whose fight on behalf of injured workers has inspired and moved the people of this province for the last two years by the effective way in which he has dealt with that issue, bring in health and safety legislation in order for it to be killed in two hours? I find it hard to believe that a government would have that level of cynicism with respect to its own legislation. Let me say that all we are doing with this bill is referring it, quite properly, to a committee.

For the benefit of those people who are watching, I think it is important to know that much of the work of this House goes on in committee. I know it is boring for cabinet ministers. They do not go there very often. I know it is demeaning for cabinet ministers to have to go in and sit down and listen and answer questions. It is hard for the Liberals, because not all the cameras are there, not all the attention is

on them and they cannot control it the way they can control some other things. It is difficult, it is tough, but that is the way this House works. We work in committee and we have those kinds of questions.

I want to hear from members. I want to hear from the public. I am not afraid of having tougher legislation. Nobody in our party is afraid of having tougher legislation. We want to hear from the public of Ontario. We want them to discuss the Peterson government's record on conflict of interest. We want to have a full airing of that. I do not think any of us needs to be afraid of that. I am amazed when I hear members say that this matter should be dealt with in just a short time and we should not have the opportunity to hear from the public.

Let me make just one more point. If the Liberal Party were really worried about conflict, do members think it would have taken two years to get to this point? They shuffled and they delayed and, yes, they dilly-dallied and they shilly-shallied. We waited for some time, for months and months. We had to raise case after case. We had to bring up the personal circumstances of minister after minister. We got stonewalled, we got "No problem," and then we got some resignations.

Finally, they recognized the problem and they asked Mr. Aird to set up his report. He set up his report, worked through the summer and reported in the fall. The Liberals took until May to bring us even a draft of their legislation. If a government were really serious, if it really cared, it seems to me it would do something. But what is the real Liberal agenda here? The real Liberal agenda here is the old tactic: wait till the very end and then try to ram it all through at the very last.

Mr. Martel: They learned it from the Tories.

Mr. Rae: That is an old, old trick. The Tories used to use it all the time. It is the oldest trick in the world. But let me say to the Liberals, it is not going to work this time. Conflict of interest is a live issue. They may try to kill it, they may try to make it disappear, they may pretend that their hands are lily-white and full of soap, but I want to make it clear that we do not share that view.

We think there have been problems with this government, we think the public is entitled to know what they are and we think the public is entitled to know that this legislation can be improved, can be toughened up, can be beefed up and can in fact ensure that politics in this province will be about principle, will be about purpose, will be about service and will not be

about money. That is what sending it to committee is all about.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, to close the debate before the vote, can I just make one or two observations? I do not propose to be long, because in the two years I have been here I have learned how to count, and when I see the combination of the New Democratic Party and the Tories ranged against a proposition, I understand that not much is to be gained in a minority House by speaking to the contrary.

Let me begin by saying that I think the honourable leader of the third party was right to illustrate the fact that conflict-of-interest questions perplex all elected governments wherever they may be found. He was very graphic in discussing not only the conflict-of-interest problems that he says have confronted this government but also those that affected the government of Premier Davis.

He omitted, of course, to make reference to the conflict-of-interest allegations that confronted the Pawley government in Manitoba. There is nothing wrong with that. He will find it very useful to read the Friedman report to get some sense of what is required in Manitoba to achieve the absence of conflict of interest. I just say to him in passing that this bill goes miles further than any bill ever introduced in the Manitoba Legislature to deal with conflict of interest.

While I am here, let me say, as an observer and active participant in politics, that if we did not have Manitoba in this country, we would have to invent it. The wonderful thing about Manitoba and the New Democratic Party government that is there is it is always the proof of the NDP promises. When we hear them say that they are, for example, in favour of pay equity in the private sector, we can then go and look where they have been, and indeed are, a government, to see if they do what they promise. The answer, of course, is that they do not do what they promise.

When they say here, as if it would sell on the streets of Ontario, that they want tougher conflict-of-interest guidelines because of the dangers that governments in Ontario present, if members go to Manitoba, they will see where the NDP has problems and the weak-kneed response it makes to the problems there. I say that if we did not have the NDP government in Manitoba here, we would have to invent it to keep everybody straight and accurate about what promises really mean and how they are implemented in a place where power is theirs. That is the first point.

Second, this bill responds to the Aird report and is based on the late governor's proposal as to how conflict-of-interest problems could be solved by legislation. It is by no means the ultimate bill. There may be improvements that can be made to it, and both here and in committee—it was some days in committee—amendments could be submitted that would make it, perhaps, a better bill.

What the bill essentially does is three things. Of course, the Progressive Conservatives and the NDP do not want these things done because they know perfectly well that within the memory of the rest of them here they will never form a government. What it does is, it requires total disclosure.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: It sets up total disclosure. Surely all honourable members are in favour of total disclosure. It removes the blind trust behind which federal ministers have hidden. Surely everybody is in favour of removing the blind trust. It defines conflict of interest in section 2. Surely everybody is in favour of defining conflict of interest.

Most important, it creates a mechanism for deciding who is in conflict and who is not so that one does not have to go to a committee composed of a majority of members from the opposite party for judgement. That is the most important feature of this bill, that those who were alleged to be in conflict of interest can have their case judged quickly and impartially by an independent commissioner and are not obliged to submit their reputations to the parties that sit opposite.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am finding it very difficult to hear.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The Conservatives are opposed to the bill and have proposed that it go to committee, and their motion will obviously carry. But it is apparent that the heart of their objection, as the leader of the third party has quickly pointed out, is that they do not believe that the conflict-of-interest rules should apply to any of them.

The honourable House leader says so plainly. He says he can think of no example where one would even want to ask if conflict of interest might exist with respect to a private member in opposition. Of course, there are lots of examples. There are examples of people in opposition who have been pharmacists and who have taken part in debates about pharmacy bills. There are

examples of people who have been employees of dental companies and who have taken part in debates about medicare and other issues.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We haven't even got to the lawyers.

Mr. Martel: Yeah, and they are in on every piece of legislation. Can you ever get the lawyers away from the trough?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I think the member for Sudbury East or West, whatever it is, has graphically made the point that lawyers who have clients, who have traditional connections and who are often found in opposition, continue to vote without disclosure on a wide variety of matters. Like the third party, we believe that is a breach of any reasonable conflict principle and that private members should be covered by conflict-of-interest legislation. When we go to the streets of Ontario, let it be heard that the Progressive Conservative Party members did not believe that conflict of interest should apply to them in opposition.

Now we come to the New Democratic Party. Its position is more perplexing, because its leader says, "What we want is the committee to which we are going to refer this bill to have public hearings so that the citizens of Ontario can come in and be heard." That makes a lot of sense in some ways, except that you must remember that this bill has already been to committee. The chairman of the committee was the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh), and a fine chairman he was. In that committee, the Conservatives proposed that there should be public hearings, and do you know what? The members of the New Democratic Party said there was no need for public hearings and voted against them.

Mr. Breagh: But there is a need for travel.

Hon. Mr. Scott: As the chairman says, there may not be a need for public hearings, but the committee certainly thought there was a need for travel. That may be, but the reality is that when asked whether they would have public hearings, whether the public could come into the committee, the NDP members of the committee said: "It is quite unnecessary. We know all about this bill." Then when the bill comes close to being passed, when it is to be debated on the floor of the Legislature, to which their votes, NDP votes, remitted it, they change their minds. An NDP government, even in Manitoba, cannot be allowed to change its mind as quickly and as radically as this party does here. So it cannot be that it is the desire for public hearings—

Interjections.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I know I cannot say the honourable member lied, but this afternoon he could walk underneath a snake with a top hat.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think maybe it is time we just calmed ourselves.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Having heard the honourable leader of the third party and having seen the performance of his political colleagues in the committee from which this bill has just come, I have grave difficulty in accepting that this is the real cause for their vote today. I have grave difficulty accepting that they really want public hearings, because if they did, they would have voted for them several weeks ago.

Why are they doing what they are doing? Why are they voting with the Conservatives? Mr. Speaker, let me tell you: last Thursday the accord expired, and that party is restoring to itself the practice it followed for 20 years, the practice of voting with the Tories at every chance it gets. This is another example.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I understand the Attorney General is finished with his remarks. Are all members aware of the amendment?

1718

The House divided on Mr. Harris's motion to recommit Bill 23, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Brandt, Breagh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Davis, Dean, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gregory, Grier, Guindon, Harris, Hayes, Hennessy, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Lane, Leluk, Mackenzie, Marland,

McCague, McClellan, McFadden, McNeil, Mitchell, Morin-Strom, O'Connor, Partington, Philip, Pierce, Pollock, Rae, Reville, Rowe, Sheppard, Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Swart, Treleven, Turner, Villeneuve.

Nays

Bossy, Bradley, Callahan, Caplan, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Curling, Eakins, Elston, Epp, Ferraro, Fulton, Grandmaitre, Haggerty, Hart, Kerrio, Keyes, Knight, Kwinter, Mancini, McGuigan, Miller, G. I., Morin, Munro, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Offer, Peterson, Poirier, Polsinelli, Reycraft, Riddell, Ruprecht, Sargent, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Sweeney, Van Horne, Ward, Wrye.

Ayes 49; nays 44.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

Bill recommitted to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly.

Le projet de loi est renvoyé au Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I wonder if we might have unanimous consent to revert to reports of committees.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. R. F. Johnston, on behalf of Mr. Laughren, from the standing committee on resources development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill 85, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 85, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Mr. Chairman: We have in front of us Bill 85, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act. Are there any comments, questions or amendments? If so, to what sections?

Mr. Mackenzie: We have five amendments. Four are very short; one will take a little more time.

Mr. Chairman: Maybe you could list which sections those are.

Mr. Mackenzie: They are: on page 4 of the bill, section 40; on page 4 of the bill, subsections 40(2a) to (2g); on page 7 of the bill, subsection 40a(1a); on page 8 of the bill, subsection 40a(1c); and page 9 of the bill, section 5.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further comments, questions or amendments? If so, to what sections?

I assume that the people standing up are not making amendments or trying to catch the chair's attention. No? Fine.

Sections 1 to 3, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 4:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Mackenzie moves that section 4 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(1a) Subsection 40(2) of the said act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

“(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), no employer shall terminate the employment of 25 or more employees in any period of 12 weeks or less unless the employer gives 26 weeks’ notice in writing to each employee and to the minister and the notice has expired.”

Mr. Mackenzie: The requirement for longer advance notice is imperative—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. It is impossible to hear the member for Hamilton East. Keep the noise down please. Carry on.

Mr. Mackenzie: The requirement for longer advance notice is imperative if there is to be an adequate public response to plant closings and mass layoffs. Besides the obvious benefit to workers, sufficient advance notice is crucial to the public justification procedure.

Several studies have dispelled the argument that if the company were to give a long period of notice, the workers would desert it, remaining contracts would go unfinished and productivity would stop.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The government will be opposing this amendment. We believe the bill has moved forward in the area of notice, certainly for individual notice. In terms of mass notice, we remain on the leading edge of all Canadian jurisdictions. I point out to the House that four provinces and the Northwest Territories do not even have notice provisions.

I would point out to my honourable friend that the real problem with the 26-week notice provision is that lengthening the provisions to that extent could place many Ontario employers in the untenable position of having to serve notice of termination on employees without knowing whether such layoffs are necessary.

I only point out to my honourable friend that this happens now. There are these so-called precautionary notices in a number of cases now. I think that by adopting this amendment, the House would be putting us into a situation where employers in some cases, particularly in areas that I am very familiar with, would be giving notice almost constantly, because the loss of a major order would get them into that situation.

With the 26-week provision they would be forced to face that problem almost continuously.

Mr. Chairman: There being no further comments or questions, shall Mr. Mackenzie’s amendment to section 4 carry?

All those in favour will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The next amendment we have is that of Mr. Mackenzie to subsection 4(2).

Mr. Mackenzie: This one will take four or five minutes to read. It is probably the crucial one. It is the justification procedure. The only reason I am not responding to the minister is simply that we have had these arguments in committee. Unfortunately, we were not able to convince either of the two other parties in committee, but I think the five amendments we have distilled out of the number of motions that were defeated in committee are important.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Mackenzie moves that subsections 40(2a) to (2g) of the act, as set out in subsection 4(2) of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

“Public Audit Board:

“(2a) There is hereby established a Public Audit Board consisting of a chairman, one or more vice-chairmen and an equal number of representatives of employers and employees, all of whom shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

“(2b) The purpose of the Public Audit Board is to inquire into the causes of intended layoffs and plant closings and their effect on individual employees and communities and to recommend specific actions which are required in order to prevent or mitigate the harmful effects of such layoffs and plant closings.

“(2c) Where the Public Audit Board determines that an intended layoff or plant closing is of major significance, the board shall forthwith conduct an inquiry into the circumstances and the expected social and economic impact of the intended layoff or plant closing.

“(2d) The Public Audit Board shall determine whether the intended layoff or plant closing is or is not justified and,

“(a) if it is justified, what specific remedy is required; or

“(b) if it is not justified, what action is required to prevent the intended layoff or plant closing from taking place.

“(2e) In making a determination under subsection 2c, the Public Audit Board shall have regard

to the number of persons affected by the layoff or plant closing, the economic importance of the industry to the community and the region in which it is located and such other factors as the board considers to be appropriate.

1730

“(2f) In carrying out its duties under this act, the Public Audit Board has the power to,

“(a) establish its own procedures;

“(b) conduct audits of any books or accounts relating to a plant closing or major layoff;

“(c) designate persons to investigate any aspect of a plant closing or major layoff; and

“(d) hold hearings and summon witnesses.

“(2g) Where the Public Audit Board completes an inquiry into the plant closing or layoff, it shall submit its report to the minister at least 60 days before the closing date set out in the layoff notice and the report shall set out,

“(a) the findings regarding the circumstances of the plant closing or layoff;

“(b) the findings regarding the economic impact of the plant closing or layoff on individual employees and their community;

“(c) an opinion by the board as to whether the plant closing or layoff is justified; and

“(d) recommendations for actions considered necessary to mitigate the harmful effect of the plant closing or layoff on the employees and the community.

“(2h) The minister shall make the report of the Public Audit Board available to any interested member of the public and, after considering the report of the board, may make such orders as the minister considers reasonable to reduce the impact of the layoffs or plant closings on the individual employees and the community, including an order that the employer,

“(a) make additional contributions to the pension plans of the employees;

“(b) continue payment of the wages and benefits being received by the employees for a specific period of time;

“(c) defer the sale, removal or transportation of equipment, machinery, parts and inventory owned by the employer;

“(d) pay reasonable relocation costs to displaced employees;

“(e) participate in providing a skill training or retraining program for the employees;

“(f) make adjustments to the community adjustment fund;

“(g) make the plant available for sale; or

“(h) offer security of employment to employees affected by the layoffs or plant closings.

“(2i) The minister, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, may acquire on behalf of Her Majesty in right of Ontario or authorize an agency of the government of Ontario to acquire all or part of the property of the employer for the purpose of continuing the operation of the enterprise for the benefit of the employees and the community.

“(2j) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,

“(a) establishing criteria to be considered by the Public Audit Board in making a determination;

“(b) determining whether a layoff or plant closing is of major significance;

“(c) prescribing forms and providing for their use;

“(d) respecting an audit or investigation carried out by the Public Audit Board; and

“(e) specifying the amount the employer is required to pay to effect an order of the minister under subsection (2h).”

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of the amendment is to require that such a public audit board be established to inquire into the causes of intended layoffs. We do not envisage justification as an opportunity to castigate employers or to force firms which are not viable to remain open. Some plant closings are unavoidable. However, the decisions to close plants or lay off a significant number of workers are made in an isolated manner dictated by a corporation's calculations of internal costs and benefits, and we do not accept the notion that the only role left to legislators is to ameliorate the severe social and public consequences of private corporation decisions.

We feel there is a public duty and responsibility to ensure that public scrutiny and control is exercised to either prevent or minimize social hazards. We have found the existence of this type of legislation in other jurisdictions has not been a deterrent for companies in those jurisdictions. Coupled with a number of positive benefits of investing in Ontario, we are not swayed by corporate arguments that investments will drop and competitiveness will be hindered by this type of legislation.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I should congratulate my honourable friend the member for Hamilton East, if only for ploughing his way through those four pages and for having an amendment which, while I disagree with what it will ultimately accomplish, is nevertheless a well-reasoned amendment which provides for an area of justification.

There are a number of reasons why we do not support this amendment and rather prefer the present wording of the legislation which for the first time in any jurisdiction in North America would provide for public disclosure of some very important information and which would have for the very first time public disclosure of the economic reasons for the closure.

I do not agree with my honourable friend that this amendment would not have a very negative effect on investment in this province. I do not think there is any doubt that businesses, as they try to make a determination whether to establish their business in Ontario or elsewhere, would look very negatively on this. As well, I point out to my friend that there is no jurisdiction anywhere in Canada or the United States that provides for this kind of intervention in the situation.

Finally, I know my friend the member for Hamilton East has mentioned that other jurisdictions have looked at this area and have legislation in this area in which this kind of public justification is considered in a positive vein. I suggest to my friend that he might look more carefully at some of those jurisdictions, specifically at France.

We have looked at a number of European jurisdictions. We found that only in France do they have any kind of justification process. In 1986 in France, the national agreement abolished the requirement for prior authorization from the labour inspectorate when declaring redundancies. So even in France, I suggest to my friend, the level of justification proposed in this amendment is being backed off from. I think it is mainly because the level of justification may be viewed to be just a little too intrusive.

Mr. Chairman: Shall Mr. Mackenzie's amendment to subsection 4(2) carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 4 agreed to.

On section 5:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Mackenzie moves that subsection 40a(1a) of the act, as set out in subsection 5(1) of the bill, be amended,

"(a) by striking out '50' in the first line of clause (a) and inserting in lieu thereof '10'; and

"(b) by striking out 'five' in the last line and inserting in lieu thereof 'one.'

Mr. Mackenzie further moves that clause 40a(1b)(b) of the act, as set out in subsection 5(1)

of the bill, be amended by striking out '50' in the first line and inserting in lieu thereof '10.'

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of this amendment is to require that severance is payable in situations where 10 or more employees have their employment terminated in a period of six months or less where the terminations are caused by the permanent discontinuance of all or part of the business of the employer at an establishment. The government bill says 50 or more. Also, severance is payable to employees who have been employed by the employer for one or more years. The government bill says five.

Where there is a permanent discontinuance of all or part of the business at a location that is part of the establishment consisting of two or more locations and 10 or more employees are terminated in a six-month period, then the location is deemed to be an establishment for the purpose of determining the rights of employees. The government bill says 50 employees.

The new bill still excludes at least 55 per cent of workers from qualifying for severance pay. Over 50 per cent of layoffs occur in firms with under 100 employees, so the new bill does little to help them. In addition, approximately 55 per cent of all workers have been in their jobs for less than five years and thus are excluded from severance pay provisions. The New Democratic Party believes that severance is compensation for the investment effort and commitment by an employee to his or her job and that this begins with the commencement of employment and lasts throughout the job tenure.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The government believes that the levels we have set, the 50 and the five-year level, are appropriate. We have made a major step forward in opening quite wide the definition of "employer," and as well in providing for the payment of severance in those areas where the employer, as defined, has wages and benefits of \$2.5 million or more.

It is fair to suggest that by leaving the number at 50 there is a small business exemption. I think that is an important area that we should leave open. As the honourable member will know, the legislation certainly provides for a fivefold increase in the numbers of employees who will be covered by the severance pay.

1740

In terms of reducing the five years to one, I would use exactly the same argument that my friend the member for Hamilton East uses in leaving the five years in place. Severance pay, as opposed to termination notice, is a payment for the kind of special investment and the special

skills that a worker has learned in the employment, and indeed is a payment for the fact that in some situations there may be a necessity for a worker to relocate.

It is, in effect, and this is the argument my friend from Hamilton East and other members of the third party will know, an argument that we put to the federal government that severance pay represents payment for a capital loss. I think the argument we have been making, and I hope we will continue to make and be able to make successfully, to the federal government would fail if we reduced the five years to one because in effect we would no longer be reflecting the fact that severance payment is capital loss; rather, it would be another level of termination notice.

If I were to make a suggestion to my friend—we have voted against the earlier clause—if we were to reflect what I think the member for Hamilton East wants to reflect, it would be enriching the mass termination provisions, because in moving the area down to 10 employees or more and reducing five years to one, that is really what he is suggesting; that is, that we provide more payment through the mass termination notice. The government does not agree with this amendment. We believe that other aspects of the bill very greatly widen the number of workers covered. I agree there are some workers, a very substantial number, who are not yet covered but I think this is a great step forward.

Mr. Chairman: Are there further comments on Mr. Mackenzie's amendment? There being none, shall Mr. Mackenzie's amendment to subsection 40a(1a) of the act carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Mackenzie moves that subsection 40a(1c) of the act, as set out in subsection 5(1) of the bill, be amended by striking out "but shall not exceed 26 weeks regular wages for a regular nonovertime work week" in the ninth and 10th lines.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of this amendment is to remove the 26-week maximum on severance pay, such that there will be no ceiling on amount received. There should be no legislated maximum to the amount of severance pay payable to an employee. There is, of course, a more biological maximum in that no employee is likely to work more than 35 to 40 years in his or her job. Since the difficulty of securing new employment increases with age, it is unreasonable

able to arbitrarily put a ceiling on the amount of severance payable. That is especially true considering the severance pay is compensation for the investment, effort and commitment made by an employee to his or her job.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The government will not support this amendment. We believe that the 26 weeks' pay is generally sufficient to recognize cases suffered by long-service employees, keeping in mind that the closer one gets to retirement the less the future earnings losses are. I think my friend would agree that at 26 weeks entitlement most workers are getting close to retirement, so we will not accept this amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Further comments upon the amendment of Mr. Mackenzie? There being none, shall Mr. Mackenzie's motion to subsection 5(1) of the act carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Mackenzie moves that section 5 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(3a) Clause 40a(3)(d) of the said act is repealed."

Mr. Mackenzie: It is unfortunate that we have so little support for these basic amendments that have been argued and were presented to the committee, I think with such force, by the representatives of workers in Ontario as well as this party. However, the purpose of this amendment is to add to section 5 a clause which repeals clause 40a(3)(d) of the act.

This clause says, "An employee who, upon having his employment terminated, retires and receives an actuarially unreduced pension" is not eligible for severance pay. That is certainly one of the real loopholes we have in the legislation. Severance pay is compensation for the investment, effort and commitment made by an employee to his or her job. The provision of pension benefits is an issue quite separate from severance pay and should not be conditional on the receipt of a pension.

Many workers, as we saw in the recent Goodyear plant closing, are eligible for pensions but are nowhere near retirement age and cannot afford to retire. A worker of 45 or 50 may qualify for a pension under a 25-and-out clause but be unable to retire for both financial reasons and reasons of a more personal nature, i.e. at 45 or 50 one still wants to be a productive member of society.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: We considered this amendment quite carefully, because I understand, I believe, what my friend is getting at and he just alluded to it in the case of the Goodyear workers. Suffice it to say we will not support this amendment at this time.

The proper interpretation of this provision of the bill, which my friend points out is the words, "an actuarially unreduced pension benefit," is currently the subject of a referee's review under the Employment Standards Act. We do not believe that the point my friend has made regarding the Goodyear workers will be upheld by the referee, but the government is sympathetic to the point that he makes. However, we do feel differently about those who would be literally retiring with an actuarially unreduced pension, not the worker at Goodyear who is out of a job at 45 and has his pension actuarially unreduced, but actuarially unreduced as if he is at 45 rather than 65, rather than that 20-year gap.

We will be following the referee's hearing decision and should the interpretation the branch puts on this matter, which has been suggested by many, not carry the day in this section 51 hearing, it would be my view as Minister of Labour, and the government's view, that we would look upon this kind of amendment, perhaps reworded, in a sympathetic way. I say to my friend that in the days to come we will have an opportunity again to amend the act, as the member for Hamilton East will know as Labour critic.

I think the government will be studying the Donner task force report over the next short period of time and we will want to move forward with appropriate dispatch with the changes to the hours of work and overtime. At that time, should the referee's decision be one which he would not support, nor would I as Minister of Labour, then I think we can look at this amendment at another time. For now, we will not support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: There being no further comments, shall Mr. Mackenzie's amendment to section 5 carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 5 agreed to.

Sections 6 to 9, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of the whole House reported one bill without amendment.

1750

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 85, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Is there anything else anybody wants to do? Then I am going for the Lieutenant Governor.

ROYAL ASSENT

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present sittings thereof, passed certain bills to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request your Honour's assent.

Assistant Clerk: The following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 7, An Act to amend certain Acts respecting Regional Municipalities;

Bill 10, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act;

Bill 25, An Act to amend the Wine Content Act;

Bill 34, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy;

Bill 62, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act;

Bill 63, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act;

Bill 77, An Act to amend the Beef Cattle Marketing Act;

Bill 79, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act;

Bill 85, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act;

Bill 96, An Act to revise the Bees Act;

Bill 98, An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1983;

Bill 116, An Act to revise the Loan and Trust Corporations Act;

Projet de loi 116, Loi portant révision de la Loi sur les compagnies de prêt et de fiducie.

Bill 154, An Act to provide for Pay Equity;

Projet de loi 154, Loi portant établissement de l'équité salariale;

Bill 170, An Act to revise the Pension Benefits Act;

Bill 188, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act;

Bill 190, An Act to amend the Mental Health Act;

Bill Pr2, An Act to revive Adona Properties Limited;

Bill Pr5, An Act respecting Great Lakes Bible College;

Bill Pr9, An Act respecting Hamilton Jewish Communal Projects;

Bill Pr11, An Act to revive The Quetico Foundation;

Bill Pr18, An Act respecting Port Stanley Terminal Rail Incorporated;

Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the Township of Chapleau;

Bill Pr20, An Act respecting the Town of Lindsay;

Bill Pr39, An Act respecting Canadian Opera Company;

Bill Pr45, An Act respecting the City of Barrie;

Bill Pr51, An Act respecting the City of London;

Bill Pr57, An Act respecting the City of Toronto;

Bill Pr63, An Act respecting the Institute of Municipal Assessors of Ontario;

Bill Pr65, An Act respecting the Ontario Institute of the Purchasing Management Association of Canada Inc.;

Bill Pr68, An Act respecting the Windsor Youth Marching and Concert Band.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, his Honour the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these bills.

Au nom de Sa Majesté, Son Honneur le lieutenant-gouverneur sanctionne ces projets de loi.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I can have unanimous consent to revert to motions.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?
Agreed to.

MOTIONS

SUMMER SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that during the summer adjournment, at a time agreed to by the three party whips, the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly be authorized to meet to consider Bill 23, An Act to provide for greater Certainty in the Reconciliation of the Personal Interests of Members of the Assembly and the Executive Council with their Duties of Office.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I make the following motion of some significance.

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that when the House adjourns today, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, October 13, 1987.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Unless, of course—
Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX A

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

COAL CONTRACTS

6. Mr. Mitchell: Would the Minister of Energy provide the results of all studies on the feasibility of using western Canada low-sulphur coal, including job creation, the reduction of acid gas emissions, the cost of equipping Hydro generators to use western low-sulphur coal and the economic impact on the province? [Tabled April 29, 1987]

See sessional paper 174.

12. Mr. Mitchell: Would the Minister of Energy table all instructions given to Ontario Hydro regarding the purchase of western Canada coal and United States coal since June 26, 1985? [Tabled April 29, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The last two years have seen a decline in Ontario Hydro's need for coal, primarily due to new nuclear units coming on stream, and this trend is expected to continue until the early 1990s. Ontario Hydro, therefore, has not entered into any new coal contracts over the last two years and is currently reducing its coal purchases in accordance with the terms of existing contracts. Since no major decisions on coal supply were being taken, the government has not provided any specific policy directions to Ontario Hydro in this regard since 1985.

In the mid- to late 1990s, the need for coal is expected to increase once again, so it will be necessary for Ontario Hydro to enter into new supply contracts between now and then. The

government will be involved in any decisions relating to sources of supply. In fact, the government is already participating in a number of initiatives with a direct bearing on Ontario Hydro's future coal supply situation. The Premier has joined with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Premiers of Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia to form an Action Group on Western Canadian Coal. The action group has set up a secretariat with a mandate to examine and report on ways of making western coal more competitive in Ontario. The Ministry of Energy is also helping fund a pilot project in Alberta that may lower the delivered cost of Alberta coal in Ontario.

The information obtained from these initiatives will help the government make a positive contribution to future decisions on coal supply to Ontario Hydro.

13. Mr. Mitchell: Would the Minister of Energy provide a list of all take or pay contracts that the Premier says Ontario Hydro has with the United States coal firms? [Tabled April 29, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Ontario Hydro currently has six supply contracts with coal companies in the United States. Each of these contracts contains some form of "take or pay" provision; i.e., the quantity taken cannot be reduced below a specified minimum level without incurring financial penalties. Details on the six contracts are as follows.

Ontario Hydro Fuel Supply Contracts

Supplier:	Consolidation Coal Co., West Virginia and Pennsylvania
Fuel type:	Coal, US bituminous
Product or service:	Supply of coal
Date of contract:	November 1972 plus subsequent amendments
Expiry date:	November 1991
Quantity:	Minimum to 1986-4,000,000 tons/year Minimum to 1987-1,000,000 tons/year Minimum 1988 to 1991-0 Maximum to 1986-5,000,000 tons/year Consol will reserve at least 1,000,000 tons per year for 1987 to 1991. Several sources for coal supplied.
Pricing terms:	Price nomination. Annual adjustment of existing price.
Cancellation provisions:	If both parties cannot agree on a price in any given year, the contract may be terminated upon three years' notice.
Contract specifications:	Heat content-13,000 to 13,500 BTU/lb. Sulphur content-approximately two to three per cent sulphur.

Supplier:	Consolidation Coal Co., Bailey Mine, Pennsylvania
Fuel type:	Coal, US bituminous
Product or service:	Supply of coal
Date of contract:	September 1982 (mine startup: 1984)
Expiry date:	June 1991; evergreen
Quantity:	1985–240,000 tons 1986–620,000 tons 1987 thereafter–1,000,000 tons/year 1987 thereafter–volume flexibility of plus or minus 15 per cent
Pricing terms:	Base price escalated; 85 per cent of base is subject to escalation. Periodic option to adjust fixed component up or down by five per cent
Cancellation provisions:	If sulphur content exceeds contract specifications for a period of six months, Ontario Hydro may terminate without further obligation. If fixed component adjustment cannot be agreed between the parties, the agreement may be terminated upon one year's notice.
Contract specifications:	Heat content–13,000 BTU/lb. Sulphur content–1.7 per cent sulphur.
Special features:	Starting in 1984, quantities from this mine replace the equivalent quantities from the major Consol contract.
Supplier:	Coal Associates Inc., Pennsylvania
Fuel type:	Coal, US bituminous
Product or service:	Supply of coal
Date of contract:	January 1977 plus subsequent amendments
Expiry date:	December 1987; evergreen
Quantity:	1985 minimum–800,000 tons/year 1986, 1987–500,000 to 600,000 tons/year
Pricing terms:	Price nomination. Annual adjustment of existing price.
Cancellation provisions:	If sulphur content exceeds contract specifications for a period of six months, Ontario Hydro may terminate without further obligation.
Contract specifications:	Heat content–12,850 BTU/lb. Sulphur content–25 per cent not to exceed 1.5 per cent sulphur; 75 per cent not to exceed 2.8 per cent sulphur.
Special features:	None.
Supplier:	Eastern Associated Corp., West Virginia
Fuel type:	Coal, US bituminous
Product or service:	Supply of coal
Date of contract:	October 1974 plus subsequent amendments
Expiry date:	December 1989
Quantity:	1,000,000 tons/year 1985 thereafter–750,000 tons/year plus or minus 20 per cent flexibility.
Pricing terms:	Price nomination. Annual adjustment of existing price.
Cancellation provisions:	If both parties cannot agree on a price in any given year, the contract may be terminated upon three years' notice.
Contract specifications:	Heat content–12,800 BTU/lb. Sulphur content–approximately 2.75 per cent sulphur.
Special features:	None.
Supplier:	Oneida Coal Co., West Virginia
Fuel type:	Coal, US bituminous
Product or service:	Supply of coal
Date of contract:	July 1980 plus subsequent amendments
Expiry date:	December 1987; one-year extensions at Hydro's option
Quantity:	300,000 tons/year minimum 750,000 tons/year maximum.
Pricing terms:	Price negotiation. Annual adjustment of existing price.
Cancellation provisions:	If both parties fail to agree on the pricing provisions, a base price

	escalated default provision is used for the remainder of the term. If sulphur content exceeds contract specifications for a period of six months, Ontario Hydro may terminate without further obligation.
Contract specifications:	Heat content—13,000 BTU/lb. Sulphur content—less than one per cent sulphur.
Special features:	None.
Supplier:	US Steel Corp., Cumberland Mine, Pennsylvania
Fuel Type:	Coal, US bituminous
Product or service:	Supply of coal
Date of contract:	March 1974 plus subsequent amendments
Expiry date:	When all economically recoverable coal has been received from the mine.
Quantity:	The Cumberland mine is dedicated to providing coal to Ontario Hydro until reserves are depleted. Total reserves were estimated to be approximately 70 million tons. Annual deliveries are expected to be approximately 2.3 million tons.
Pricing terms:	Cost-plus contract. Hydro is also required to make advances for development of the mine as well as lease payments for the mine equipment.
Cancellation provisions:	Contract may be terminated, but Hydro forfeits its investment and depending on timing may be required to reimburse US Steel for its investment and to honour the equipment leases.
Contract specifications:	Heat content—13,300 BTU/lb. Sulphur content—1.35 to 1.90 per cent sulphur.
Special features:	If any problems arise in mine operations after the initial mine development, US Steel is to recommend remedies and Ontario Hydro may participate in the costs of improvements to the extent of 50 per cent, subject to mutual agreement on the need for the capital expenditure. Ontario Hydro does not have the right to reject the contract in any manner if mutual agreement is not achieved or if Ontario Hydro decides not to participate in subsequent capital expenditures. Total initial advances for capital development were US\$68 million.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

14. Mr. McFadden: Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology provide all submissions made to the federal government and Simon Reisman on behalf of Ontario's auto pact? [Tabled April 29, 1987]

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: (1) Meetings with the trade negotiator's office during which auto issues were discussed: November 27, 1986, meeting between all the provinces and the TNO; February 26, 1987, meeting between the government of Ontario and the TNO; May 1, 1987, meeting between the government of Ontario and the TNO.

(2) Communications (letters) between the Premier of Ontario and the Prime Minister of Canada concerning automotive issues: February 17, 1986, letter detailing Ontario's concerns on a number of auto-related issues such as free trade negotiation, quotas, etc.; September 25, 1986, letter asking Prime Minister to defend Canada's auto interests which were being challenged in the United States; November 13, 1986, telex ex-

pressing concern that TNO is discussing auto issues with United States trade negotiators; May 25, 1987, letter indicating the urgent need for a Canadian automotive policy and the importance of establishing the policy now.

(3) Statements: Statement by the Premier to the first ministers' conference in Vancouver concerning the Canadian automotive industry; statement by the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology made to the House during the emergency debate on the Canadian automotive industry.

(4) Meetings between the staff of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and the automotive industry representatives to discuss automotive trade issues: January 14, 1986, January 22, 1986, January 23, 1986, January 29, 1986, February 5, 1986, February 11, 1986, May 7, 1986, November 4, 1986, January 20, 1987 and May 15, 1987.

15. Mr. McFadden: Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology provide all submissions made to the federal government and Simon Reisman on behalf of Ontario's brewery

industry? [Tabled April 29, 1987]

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology has made successive representations to the federal government and to the chief trade negotiator and to the trade negotiator's office on behalf of the Ontario brewery industry beginning in 1985 and throughout 1987.

MITT, on behalf of the Ontario industry, met with senior representatives of the TNO on December 9, 1986, mid-January 1987 and again on March 31, 1987, where the brewers' position was clearly and forcefully presented to the federal government.

MITT also consulted with representatives of the Brewers' Association of Canada on November 20, 1986, for their position on free trade.

The Ontario special trade policy adviser to the Premier, Ontario's designate to the Continuing Committee on Trade Negotiations, most recently presented the brewers' position on April 14, 1987, in the context of a complete discussion of all alcoholic beverage sectors and policy and program issues. The CCTN is the established official forum for provincial participation in the Canada-US trade negotiations.

On April 30, 1986, representatives from Labatt's made a formal presentation to the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology regarding free trade issues.

MITT has made representations to the federal government since 1983 in response to successive international challenges by the United States and the European Community before the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade against long-standing Ontario markup, listing and distribution policies and programs for all alcoholic beverages, including beer.

MITT is actively participating in the Canadian defence before the Canada-EC-GATT panel challenge on all alcoholic beverage policies and programs.

It should be noted that MITT continues to assist the ministries of Agriculture and Food and Consumer and Commercial Relations in submissions to the federal government with respect to bilateral trade negotiations.

On June 16, 1987, Robert E. Latimer, the Premier's special trade policy adviser, sent a letter to Simon Reisman outlining Ontario's concerns with respect to the potential impact of a Canada-US free trade agreement on Ontario's alcoholic beverage industries. The letter emphasized that, under free trade, the brewery industry would be vulnerable to a loss in domestic market share.

A Study of the Ontario Beverage Industries, prepared by Woods Gordon Management Consultants for MITT, Agriculture and Food and Consumer and Commercial Relations, was made available to Simon Reisman to provide a broader analytical background to the brewery industry's position.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

121. Mr. Rowe: Would the Minister of Tourism and Recreation provide a detailed account of all travel expenses incurred by his parliamentary assistant since January 1, 1987? [Tabled April 29, 1987]

See sessional paper 153.

181. Mr. Cousens: Would the Minister of Community and Social Services provide a detailed account of all travel expenses incurred by his parliamentary assistant since January 1, 1986, along with the names of organizations and people with whom he has met? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

See sessional paper 175.

ALLEGATIONS BY GRAHAM MCCREADY

127. Mr. Bennett: Would the Attorney General provide the information that was used by the crown counsel as the basis for the decision that the allegations made by Graham McCready have no substance? [Tabled May 4, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Scott: Because it is anticipated that a justice of the peace will be holding an inquiry into the issue as to whether process ought to issue in consequence of the information laid by Mr. McCready, it is inappropriate for me to respond to the honourable member's question at this time. Once the determination is made by the justice of the peace, I may be in a position to answer the question posed by the honourable member.

COLLEGES OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

140. Mr. Warner: Would the Minister of Colleges and Universities provide a breakdown of additional full-time teaching staff, part-time teaching staff and administrative staff hired by the community colleges since the announcement of extra funding in response to the Skolnik report? [Tabled May 28, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: As a result of additional funding in 1986-87 it is estimated that approximately 800 new full-time faculty were hired in the fall of 1986.

In terms of full-time equivalents, it is estimated that about 300 part-time, partial load, and

sessional faculty were hired in the fall of 1986 as a result of the additional funding.

No data are available on the number of administrative staff hired during this period.

It should be noted that it is difficult to the disentangle the impact of additional funding on staffing from the impacts of changed enrolment patterns and the reduced funding associated with the Canadian job strategy program.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

141. Ms. Gigantes: Would the Solicitor General please table the names and associated funding requests of all Ontario rape crisis centres receiving provincial allocations for the 1987-88 fiscal year? [Tabled May 28, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Keyes: Listed below are the names and associated funding requests of all Ontario rape crisis centres receiving provincial allocations for the 1987-88 fiscal year.

Centre	Funding request
Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre	\$42,440
Peterborough Rape Crisis Centre	\$12,807
Sarnia Sexual Assault Support Centre	\$26,384
Scugog Rape Crisis Centre	\$14,300
Sudbury Rape Crisis Centre	\$14,200
Timmins Sexual Assault Centre	\$11,475
Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Windsor-Essex	\$23,745
Algoma and District Sexual Assault Centre	\$23,095
Sexual Assault Centre, Hamilton	\$23,125
Women's Place, Kenora	\$19,960
Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Kingston	\$12,684
London Sexual Assault Centre	\$22,358
CARSA (Niagara Sexual Assault Centre)	\$20,000
Oshawa-Durham Rape Crisis Centre	\$14,976
Sexual Assault Centre, Ottawa	\$19,000
Barbara Schlifer Clinic	\$20,000
Barrie and District Rape Crisis Line	\$17,400
Chatham-Kent Sexual Assault Centre	\$12,885
Women Against Sexual Assault	\$10,625

FUNERAL SERVICES

142. Mr. Runciman: Would the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations advise the House why nothing has happened with regard to the Turner report by former RCMP investigator Tim Turner since it has been five months since the Attorney General reviewed the report and since the minister indicated that the report could lead to "eventual law enforcement"? [Tabled May 28, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The Turner report stemmed from a complaint by the Ontario Monument Builders Association that they were victims of unfair practices by certain Ontario cemeteries. Mr. Turner, an official with the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations at that time, was instructed to undertake a short investigation into the allegations. He concluded that there was no basis to lay charges under the Cemeteries Act. Subsequently, the monument dealers have pursued their concerns under the federal Competition Act.

The discussion with the Attorney General was restricted to the ability of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to make the Turner report and its findings public. The report was prepared with a view to law enforcement and cannot be made public. Details contained in the report may be readdressed as part of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations' overall review of the Cemeteries Act.

143. Mr. Runciman: Would the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations inform the House if he intends to abolish the tax-exempt status of commercialized cemetery conglomerates which compete unfairly with independent, tax-paying monument builders and funeral homes? [Tabled May 28, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Commercial cemeteries are treated no differently than all other cemeteries, whether they are religious cemeteries, municipal cemeteries or nonprofit cemeteries. All cemeteries in Ontario are exempt from realty taxes. It appears that cemeteries are liable for municipal business taxes if they are in the business of selling cemetery supplies. Further, all private companies selling cemetery services are liable for the payment of Ontario corporations tax.

Tax exemptions on realty are found in the Assessment Act and are specific in focus. The Assessment Act and the Corporations Tax Act are administered by the Ministry of Revenue.

144. Mr. Runciman: Would the Minister of

Consumer and Commercial Relations advise the House if he approves of the establishment of Trillium, the new holding company for Memorial Gardens Cemeteries' funeral home? If not, why not? [Tabled May 28, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The establishment of Trillium Funeral Services by Arbor Capital brings together all its Ontario funeral home interests under one corporate umbrella. It is understood that although Trillium will be owned by Arbor Capital it will be operated at arm's length from its cemetery holdings. My ministry has no ability to intervene in the formation of a holding company.

146. Mr. Runciman: Would the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations advise the House if he intends to strengthen and enforce subsection 13(1) of the Funeral Services Act which prevents cross-ownership of funeral homes and cemeteries? [Tabled May 28, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The question of whether subsection 13(1) of the Funeral Services Act needs to be strengthened or changed will be addressed in the review of the Funeral Services Act that is now under way. The decision on what amendments are necessary will reflect careful consideration of the views of all the Ontario interest groups that will be consulted on this contentious topic.

147. Mr. Runciman: Would the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations advise the House if he will declare a moratorium on acquisitions of funeral homes and monument businesses by commercialized cemeteries until new legislation is completed? [Tabled May 28, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Legal counsel advises that there is no authority under the Funeral Services Act for a moratorium on the joint ownership of cemeteries and funeral homes. Subsection 13(1) of the regulations restricts operations of funeral establishments, not ownership.

ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

152. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Colleges and Universities provide the number of student applications received under the Ontario graduate scholarship program 1987-88 for the library sciences scholarship panel; the number of student applications approved under this panel; the number of student applications in this panel from students who obtained their undergraduate degree on a part-time basis; the number of

student applications approved in this panel for students who obtained their undergraduate degree on a part-time basis? [Tabled June 1, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Ontario graduate scholarship academic panel responsible for adjudicating candidates in the field of library sciences awarded 17 scholarships among 73 candidates in the field of library sciences.

The program is administered on the basis of academic merit. Whether a candidate obtained his or her undergraduate degree through full- or part-time studies is not a consideration.

Due to the lack of standardized university transcripts, neither the ministry nor the academic panel can accurately determine whether an applicant completed his or her undergraduate studies on a part-time basis.

Consequently, the ministry cannot compile data on the number of applicants who obtained their undergraduate degree on a part-time basis.

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

156. Mr. Mackenzie: Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology inform the House of the status of all loans as of March 31, 1987, listed in the development corporations' annual reports of loans and guarantees 1985-86? Also, would the minister advise the House if any borrowers are no longer in business? [Tabled June 1, 1987]

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The annual report of loans and guarantees is prepared in accordance with section 25 of the Development Corporations Act for the sole purpose of reporting the annual loan and guarantee commitments of the development corporations.

The current status of loans to our borrowers is commercially sensitive information and cannot be made public. If, for example, it was publicly reported that a borrower was in arrears, this could under certain conditions cause concern to other creditors and possibly lead to insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings.

ONTARIO HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

159. Mr. Andrewes: Would the Minister of Health provide records of OHIP premium assistance by region for the years 1984, 1985 and 1986? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: Due to the centralized processing of premium assistance applications, OHIP does not maintain historical records by region on premium assistance.

The average numbers of certificates and participants in receipt of premium assistance

during fiscal years 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 are as follows:

**OHIP premium assistance
12 months April-March**

Category	Average No. of Certificates			Average No. of Part		
	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Partially assisted	5,806	7,271	8,960	10,101	12,001	14,440
Fully assisted	345,405	355,767	341,861	536,291	539,219	503,420
Temporary assisted	85,205	93,388	98,825	150,453	160,063	165,640
65	1,009,994	1,061,829	1,114,514	1,424,173	1,500,854	1,597,340
DVA	23,884	23,830	22,639	47,297	46,220	43,230
Municipal welfare	111,983	117,621	110,854	186,309	196,309	177,870
Provincial welfare	170,152	163,886	179,607	326,558	307,681	336,830
Total	1,752,429	1,823,592	1,877,260	2,681,182	2,762,347	2,822,790

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

163. Mr. McCague: Would the acting Chairman of the Management Board provide the total expenditures of revenue on personnel advertisements, program announcements, ministry notices and any other advertised government feature, specifically by provincial dailies, since June 26, 1986? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Nixon: For the 23-month period, June 26, 1985, through May 29, 1987, the total amount of expenditures in provincial dailies for personnel advertising, program announcements and ministry notices was \$3,867,769.03.

168. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Skills Development provide details of his plans to advertise the Futures program for hard-to-employ 15-to 24-year-olds through brochures in Ontario liquor stores—specifically, when the brochures went in, how many stores were involved, the cost of this advertising initiative, whether it is still going on—and would he comment on the appropriateness and/or propriety of advertising in liquor stores for disadvantaged 15- to 24-year-olds? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: In November 1986, the ministry arranged a once-only delivery of approximately 300,000 English and French copies of the Futures brochure to 615 LCBO retail stores. The cost of a month-long advertising initiative was \$19,580. The stores made the brochures available to their customers as a public service and at no cost to the ministry.

In the past, the LCBO stores and other private and public organizations have been used to successfully advertise youth programs. They were again used as part on an intensive campaign to bring the Futures program to the attention of

those concerned with disadvantaged 15- to 24-year-olds, particularly those in the 19- to 24-year-old age group.

ONTARIO BASIC SKILLS PROGRAM

170. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Skills Development provide details on the number of persons who have enrolled in the Ontario basic skills courses since November 1, 1986, the number of persons who have applied for assistance under the access to training component, the number who received assistance, for what purpose the assistance was given and the guidelines used to determine receipt of assistance? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Enrolment: The community colleges report that between November 1, 1986, and March 31, 1987, 5,843 trainees were enrolled in the Ontario basic skills program.

Special support allowance recipients: A total of 1,783 trainees are receiving assistance for child care, transportation and accommodation under the access to training component of the program. This figure includes 605 male and 1,178 female recipients. Notes: (1) Records are not maintained on the numbers applying for assistance, only for those approved for assistance; (2) A breakdown of special support allowance recipients by assistance category is not available.

Guidelines to determine eligibility for allowances: To be eligible to receive special allowances, trainees must normally have a family income of less than \$21,000 per annum. This amount is based on the applicant's and spousal equivalent incomes only. The income earned during the previous taxation year is the benchmark for eligibility.

HELP CENTRES

173. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Skills Development provide information on what help centres applied under the special projects component of Ontario's training strategy to run projects, which proposals were accepted and what will happen to the projects if the centres are modified? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Seven centres receiving assistance under the Ontario help centres pro-

gram have submitted project proposals and applied for funding from the special projects fund. Details are provided on the attached page.

A review committee currently has three projects pending or under review. Two other projects have been approved, one rejected and one referred to another ministry.

Projects approved for funding under the special projects fund are monitored according to program guidelines and will not be significantly affected if support for help centres is modified.

Ontario's training strategy—special projects
Project proposals submitted by Ontario help centres

Centre	Project title	Amount	Status
Brantford and District Unemployment Services Centre	Food Bank	\$24,592	Rejected—does not meet special project fund criteria
Cambridge and District Unemployed Help Centre	Breaking the Barrier	\$36,210	Approved
Centre for Employable Workers (Guelph)	Options Guelph	No amount	Pending—additional information and budget required
St. Catharines Unemployed Help Centre	Generic Skills	\$24,924	Approved
Sault Ste. Marie and District Unemployed Help Centre	Adult Basic Literacy Program	No amount	Referred to Ministry of Citizenship and Culture community literacy program
Unemployed Help Centre of Windsor	Necessary Employment for Women	\$75,000	Pending—additional information required
The Working Centre (Kitchener-Waterloo)	Retraining Options	\$24,852.	Under review—additional information required

AMBULANCE SERVICES

175. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Health provide a list of all ambulance service or ministry staff recommendations for increased vehicle or staff coverage for ambulance service in the central west region in 1985-86 and 1986-87 and their cost? Would he also show the recommendations approved and detail how the priority list was struck? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: Requests for increased staffing and/or vehicles in ambulance services are based on a number of factors. These include call volume statistics that reflect demand, projected growth in demand, new health resources or programs; e.g., a new CAT scanner may increase calls coming in and decrease transfers going out of an area. All of these factors are given

consideration when looking at the requirement for resources, and much of this is an ongoing exercise. A variety of working papers, reports, etc., may be prepared during a given year that recommend resource changes.

In the central west region, additional staff and vehicles were added to Hamilton in 1985 for the provision of paramedic services.

The other significant change to ambulance resources in the area was the implementation in 1985 of the central ambulance communications centre in Mississauga. This centre has been able to co-ordinate all ambulance resources in an area from Burlington in the west to Milton in the east and Orangeville in the north. As a result, the utilization and productivity of these resources has been improved significantly.

In 1986-87, the central ambulance communi-

cations centre was instrumental in conducting an overall review of ambulance service requirements in the Halton-Mississauga area. This review made recommendations that were reflected in the May 28 announcement of increased ambulance shifts and a new ambulance station in Burlington.

176. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Health provide the provincial standard for ambulance response time, the provincial average, the average by region (e.g., central west, southwest, etc.) and the average response times for ministry services, municipal services, private services, hospital services and volunteer services? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: The ministry does not have a provincial standard for ambulance response time because a province-wide standard would not accommodate the many variables which affect response times. For example, response time depends on proximity of the patient to an ambulance station, road and weather conditions, time of day call is received and the sophistication and effectiveness of the communication system.

Average emergency response time for the southwest region is 10.23 minutes, central west region is 10.25 minutes, central east region is 11.36 minutes, eastern region is 12.19 minutes, northeast region is 15.51 minutes and northwest region is 20.13 minutes.

Average emergency response time by type of operation is as follows: ministry, 8.82 minutes; private, 11.47 minutes; municipal, 11.94 minutes; hospital, 13.77 minutes; and volunteers, 16.11 minutes.

The provincial average for emergency response is 13.04 minutes.

LAND TRANSFER TAX

178. Mr. Cousens: Would the Minister of Revenue table the amount of money the province has raised from the increase in land transfer taxes that took effect January 1, 1986? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Nixon: In the 16 months between January 1, 1986, and April 30, 1987, approximately \$77 million may be attributed to the increase in the rates of land transfer tax.

LEGAL FEES

183. Mr. Warner: Would the Minister of Colleges and Universities inform the House what fees were charged by Fred Hamilton of Hamilton, Hiks and Morley to Sheridan College in the action involving Brian Lyons, Jane Abramowitz

and OPSEU? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Ministry staff have been in touch with officials at Sheridan College and the law firm of Hicks, Morley, Hamilton, Stewart and Storie, and the following information was obtained.

In the action before the Ontario Labour Relations Board, the primary issue was between the complainants, B. Lyons and J. Abramowitz and OPSEU; however, the Ontario Council of Regents and Sheridan College were also both named as respondents.

Therefore, it was necessary to have representation in attendance to protect the council's and college's interests. Under these circumstances, as the law firm of Hicks, Morley, Hamilton, Stewart and Storie was engaged by the Council of Regents, there was no charge to the college.

LANDFILL SITE

184. Mr. Treleaven: Would the Minister of the Environment table the results of the latest detailed hydrogeologic study done on the proposed South Easthope landfill site adjacent to the town of Tavistock? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Bradley: To date, a report on the results of the hydrogeological study has not been submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for review and it is unlikely to be submitted until all documentation required in support of an application for a certificate of approval for a waste disposal site has been prepared by the consultant.

COMPUTERIZED AXIAL TOMOGRAPHY

185. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Health provide the average waiting period for a northwestern Ontario patient to have a CAT scan performed? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: To have a CAT scan performed, the average waiting time for an inpatient in northwestern Ontario (McKellar General Hospital, Thunder Bay) is two days; for an outpatient, 60 days.

186. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Health provide the average cost for a CAT scan performed on a patient in northern Ontario and in Manitoba? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: The average cost of a CAT scan in northern Ontario is \$61 (not including equipment depreciation or physicians' fees). Costs for a CAT scan in Manitoba are not available.

187. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Health provide the amount that OHIP pays Manitoba hospitals in respect of the performance

of a CAT scan? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: The amount paid to Manitoba hospitals for CAT scans is included in the per diem rate negotiated annually. CAT scans are not paid for on an individual basis.

188. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Health provide the number of CAT scans performed on patients from northwestern Ontario, excluding those patients residing in Thunder Bay, over the last two years? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: McKellar General Hospital, Thunder Bay, performed 4,845 scans from April 1986 to April 1987 and 3,783 from April 1985 to April 1986. Residents from outside Thunder Bay use approximately 28 per cent or 1,370 of these scans yearly.

196. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Health provide the amount OHIP has paid Manitoba hospitals for performing CAT scans on northwestern patients since April 1, 1985? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: The amount paid to Manitoba hospitals for CAT scans is included in the per diem rate negotiated annually. CAT scans are not paid for on an individual basis.

197. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Health provide a list of hospitals in Manitoba that OHIP pays for CAT scans performed on northwestern Ontario patients? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: OHIP does not pay for CAT scans to Manitoba hospitals on an individual basis; payment is included in the per diem rate. Therefore, hospitals in Manitoba that are paid for CAT scans performed on northwestern Ontario patients could not be identified.

198. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Health provide a list of hospitals in northwestern Ontario that have the facilities to perform CAT scans? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: One CAT scanner is located in northwestern Ontario, at McKellar General Hospital in Thunder Bay.

206. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Health provide the amount that OHIP pays Ontario hospitals in respect of the performance of a CAT scan? [Tabled June 8, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Elston: Hospitals receive global funding for the operation of a CAT scanner that has been approved by the ministry. This global funding is approximately \$150,000 annually.

Physicians are paid a professional fee for the interpretation of a CAT scan in accordance with

the area examined. These professional fees vary from a low of \$37.70 for head or neck to \$94.20 for spines. There are 43 individual fees.

CONSERVATION OFFICERS

189. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide a complete update on the status of the negotiations for job reclassification for conservation officers? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: In May 1985, approximately 200 conservation officers filed grievances against their classification. These officers were classified at the resource technician 3 level and were seeking to be reclassified at the resource technician senior 1 level. (This claim was subsequently abandoned at arbitration and changed to the extent that the officers were seeking to be properly classified.)

Through the grievance procedure, the union indicated that in addition to increased compensation, the conservation officers were seeking recognition for the enforcement duties they perform. Their goal was to achieve a separate classification that would distinguish them from other "resource technicians."

The employer's position through the grievance procedure was that the position of conservation officer was properly classified as resource technician 3. In addition, the philosophy of the government is that, where possible, small groups of separately classified employees should be amalgamated into a larger classification series. This is the opposite situation to what the conservation officers were trying to attain.

In the meantime, the union, at the 1986 technical services category salary negotiations, put forth a special case submission. They proposed a \$3,000-per-year "special allowance" for resource technicians with "identifiable law enforcement responsibilities."

Information gathered by the pay research section of the human resources secretariat indicated that some salary adjustments were appropriate for our conservation officers based on wages paid for similar duties in other jurisdictions.

The salary negotiations between Management Board of Cabinet and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union concerning employees in the technical services category (which includes conservation officers) resulted in the following agreement:

"An employee who occupies a position of conservation officer in the resource technician 3 class shall be paid two (2) rates above each listed

rate in the resource technician salary range.”

This agreement, which was ratified by the union, had the effect of providing an annual salary increase of approximately \$1,500.

Despite the negotiated salary increase for conservation officers in the resource technician 3 class, the union proceeded with the classification grievances. On July 2, 1986, by agreement of the parties, the grievance settlement board heard only the grievances of the conservation officers in the Kenora district.

On August 26, 1986, the grievance settlement board released its award, which concluded that the conservation officers in the Kenora district were improperly classified in the classification of resource technician 3. The award then went on to state:

“This conclusion does not, however, carry with it the implication that the grievors must be classified outside of the technical services category or the resource technician series thereof. The technical services category includes within its scope ‘fish and wildlife and forest protection,’ a broad generic description which obviously would include enforcement work.

“The preamble to the resource technician series in this category broadly contemplates embracing employees involved in full-time enforcement work. It states, in pertinent part, ‘positions involving full-time performance of **fish and wildlife management and/or enforcement duties** are restricted to employees who are graduates of an approved technical school in resource management.’ (Emphasis supplied.)

“The only difficulty for the ministry that the board has identified is that this series does not contain any class standard placing sufficient significance upon enforcement duties to embrace in a non-atypical classification the jobs of the grievors.

“The grievance is allowed to the following extent: The board hereby declares that the grievors are improperly classified in the classification of resource technician 3. In accordance with the decision of the Divisional Court in Ministry of Community and Social Services and OPSEU (Berry et al) (unreported, Samuels), the matter is remitted to the ministry for purposes of establishing a proper classification for the grievors. We will retain jurisdiction pending implementation of the terms of this award.”

Due to the ambiguous nature of the above excerpt from the award, the ministry encountered some difficulty in implementing the decision of the arbitrator.

Should the ministry establish an entirely new

classification standard exclusively for conservation officers? Would a revision to the existing resource technician classification standards to include more references to enforcement duties satisfy the award? Should the ministry atypically classify the conservation officers in some other classification standard? It was this ambiguity in the decision that led to delays in implementing it and required the parties to return to the arbitrator for clarification on February 6, 1987.

The parties exchanged correspondence between September and November 1986 in an attempt to agree on the meaning of the award. The union first wrote to our solicitor in September seeking information concerning how and when the arbitrator’s award would be implemented by the ministry. Our solicitor was instructed to respond that the ministry’s position was that the negotiated salary note met the intent of the award.

In November, the union counsel responded that it was the union’s position that the salary note did not settle the classifications dispute. The union then sought to have the board reconvene, and the grievance settlement board scheduled a further hearing in this matter for February 6, 1987.

On February 3, 1987, the ministry advised that it would be classifying the positions as resource technicians 3 G-21 note “Atypical” and would be recommending that the salary note be applied retroactive to the date of the filing of the grievances.

At the grievance settlement hearing on February 6, 1987, the union took the position that the ministry’s use of the atypical classification was improper and did not meet the intent of the award. Our solicitor argued that since the original award suggested the positions were atypical, the action taken by the ministry was proper. Since the grievance settlement board retained jurisdiction concerning the implementation of their award, the parties will be required to return to the board to argue the merits of the atypical classification.

On May 5, 1987, in response to the union’s concerns that no action had been taken, the grievance settlement board concluded, based on evidence presented by the ministry, that the conservation officers had been reclassified. The Ontario Public Service Employees Union has now requested a further hearing before the grievance settlement board concerning its dissatisfaction with the reclassification. The hearing is scheduled for September 11, 1987.

In the meantime, unrelated to the resolution of

the grievance, the ministry has conducted an internal study of the role of conservation officer in Ontario. The union has filed unfair labour practice charges regarding this study, which was conducted by John Kendrick, district manager, Moosonee district. The ministry's position is that the study did not constitute an unfair labour practice since no conservation officer was forced to participate in the study or has been disciplined or interfered with for filing their grievances.

TREE-PLANTING

190. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide a complete list of names of companies, along with their addresses, which have been awarded tree-planting contracts in northern Ontario for the 1987 planting period? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

See sessional paper 154.

191. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide the number of workers from northern Ontario and the number of workers from outside of northern Ontario who are currently working for companies under contract

to the ministry for planting trees in northern Ontario? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: This information is not readily available. However, we feel that there is a good possibility that we will be able to secure this type of information by the autumn of 1987.

In the interim, the following summary, which provides information on the origin of tree planting contractors working in northern Ontario in 1987, may be of some interest.

Origin of northern Ontario tree planting contractors, 1987: Total number of contractors, 55; northern Ontario, 32 (58 per cent); southern Ontario, 16 (29 per cent); and out-of-province, 7 (13 per cent).

FOREST SPRAYING PROGRAM

192. Mr. Pierce: Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide the number of acres, the locations and the schedule of spraying in regard to this year's budworm spray program in northern Ontario? [Tabled June 3, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The response as follows:

1987 Ontario spruce and jack pine budworm aerial spray projects

Project base	Project number	Treatment area (hectares)	No. of spray aircraft	No. of pointer aircraft	Size of staff
Terrace Bay-Hagarty	6	7,877	2	1	8
Nipigon-Jellico	7	8,479	2	1	5
Nipigon (M)*	8	16,297	2	1	10
Nipigon-Nonwatin	9	40,654	3	1	13
Thunder Bay (M)*	10	9,291	6	3	18
Sioux Lookout (M)*	10	293	1	1	9
Spruce budworm totals:		82,891	16	8	63
Fort Frances-Worenko	11	11,670	3	1	20
Kenora-Minaki	12	50,783	5	2	15
Dryden-Vermilion Bay	13A, 13B	27,384	5	2	12
Red Lake-Cochénour	14	15,206	2	1	15
Jack pine budworm totals:		105,043	15	6	62
Cumulative totals:		187,934	31	14	125

Note: 1 hectare = 2.471 acres

* Mobile

Timing of schedule: Budworm program initiated on May 23, 1987, and completed on June 15, 1987.

ONTARIO HOUSING CORP.

207. Mr. Treleaven: Would the Minister of

Housing table with the House the report prepared by his staff respecting Ontario Housing Corp. project B05-P7-87-07? [Tabled June 8, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Curling: With reference to the above question, I wish to advise that the report referred to was verbal.

As stated in my letter to Mr. Treleaven dated May 25, 1987, "The purpose of requiring bid bonds of a given amount is to ensure that the bidder is in earnest and that if the bidder does not enter into a formal contract, a claim can be made against the bid bond. If we were to disregard irregularities of this type, then there would not be any consistency in the tendering process."

I hope that this clarifies our position on the matter.

SEVERANCE PAY

208. Mr. Bernier: Would each minister provide the number and names of ministry, agency, board and commission employees severed since June 26, 1985, the amount of severance paid each employee and the formula by which the severance was calculated? [Tabled June 8, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It would not be appropriate to disclose the personal financial information of employees to whom termination payments are given, but we are actively considering methods by which information can be provided to the public that will reflect the amount that the termination payment represents of an employee's salary or an expired contract. The aim is to provide meaningful information that will not disclose the personal circumstances of a particular employee.

We recognize the necessity for making the public aware of as much information as possible concerning the severances negotiated by the crown with its employees, and our ultimate resolution must try to balance the recognized public need to know against an employee's right to privacy.

CHILD CARE

209. Mr. Treleaven: Would the Minister of Community and Social Services provide to the House: (1) the amount of new provincial government money to be spent on rural child care in each of the next three years; (2) the number of new rural child care spaces the government will create in each of the next three years; and (3) what percentage these figures represent as compared to the total new allocation as announced in the Legislature by the Minister on June 4, 1987? [Tabled June 8, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: 1. What is the amount of new provincial government money to be spent on rural child care in each of the next three years?

Ministry targets: continuation of present farm rural projects at \$400,000 for three years; an

additional \$125,000 is to be spent in 1987-88 to assist in needs assessment and to develop proposals for rural and isolated communities; 1988-89, target expenditures of \$800,000; and 1989-90, target expenditures of \$1,100,000.

2. What is the number of new rural child care spaces the government will create in each of the next three years?

Centre-based care is not seen as appropriate for most of the child care needs of rural populations. Other forms of in-home care are being developed as an alternative which do not translate into "space" counts; consequently, it is not possible to provide an estimate of new spaces to be created by the projects.

3. What percentage do these figures represent as compared to the total new allocation as announced on June 4, 1987?

The allocation for rural projects is not the only funding and service development that is provided to rural areas. Depending on community and municipal action, rural areas may also benefit from increase in subsidies; direct operating grants to existing nonprofit centres; startup and capital; and expansion of existing child care resource centres and establishment of new centres.

These larger funding allocations are not separated into rural versus urban targets and so it is not possible or appropriate to compare rural versus urban targets.

Background: The four existing rural projects located in the counties of Timiskaming, Lambton, Dufferin and Northumberland are using a variety of in-home arrangements. Included is private home day care, which is licensed but is not used for the ministry's counts of licensed spaces.

The counts in private home day care are based on the number of providers and children enrolled.

The combination of rural and isolated communities means that some of the projects may, for example, take place in the north. Such a community may be isolate and may be more truly a small urban centre than a typical southern rural-farming area.

INTERIM ANSWERS

139. Mr. Warner: Hon. Mr. Sorbara—The ministry staff have contacted the president of Centennial College in order to advise him that this question was tabled in the Legislature. The president was asked to provide formal responses to the 15 questions contained in question 139. A

full response to this question will be provided by June 29, 1987.

163. Mr. McCague: Hon. Mr. Nixon—The information requested will require additional time to prepare. The answer should be available by about June 29, 1987.

171. Mr. Jackson: Hon. Mr. Sorbara—The response to this question will be available for tabling on or about June 29, 1987.

203. Mr. McLean: Hon. Mr. Fulton—The ministry will require additional time to canvass all ministries and assemble the information needed to respond to this question in the detail requested. An answer should be available on or about September 30, 1987.

204. Mr. McLean: Hon. Mr. Fulton—The ministry will require additional time to assemble the information needed to respond to this question in the detail requested. An answer should be available on or about August 31, 1987.

211. Mr. Guindon: Hon. Mr. Peterson—The Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs will require additional time to prepare the response to this question. An answer will be available on or about August 14, 1987.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Sessional paper 20, re Bill 80.

Hon. Mr. Conway: To the extent that Bill 80 affirms the education and social value of heritage language learning for Ontario students, it is supported in principle by the government. We are concerned, however, that some aspects of the proposed legislation could fragment the educational goals and resources we have for our schoolchildren.

On June 8, 1987, the Minister of Education released the Proposal for Action on Ontario's Heritage Languages Program. The five initiatives that make up this proposal respond to the need to improve the current policy for heritage language instruction in our elementary schools, address some of the concerns associated with its current operation and provide additional resources for its enhancement and further development.

The Minister of Education has invited reactions, comments and suggestions to this proposal by September 30, 1987. This proposal, and the responses to it, will provide the basis for government legislation to enhance heritage language instruction for elementary schoolchildren.

LOW-ALCOHOL PRODUCTS

Sessional paper 36, re the sale of products such as Sarasoda and Caesar's Shandy, which have an alcoholic content.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: On June 8, 1987, I announced that regulation 581 under the Liquor Licence Act is being amended to lower the maximum alcohol limit in beverages exempted from government regulation to 0.5 per cent by volume. To avoid causing undue financial hardship, distributors and store operators will have until September 30 of this year to phase out existing stocks.

The change is based on a survey of public school, police and public health officials conducted for the ministry by the Addiction Research Foundation. The results indicate that while use of these products by children is not widespread, there were a few reports of problems for small children.

According to the foundation, products at 0.5 per cent would not be expected to produce intoxicating effects in small children. The researchers also point out that many juices and foods contain small amounts of natural alcohol resulting from minor fermentation or the addition of certain flavourings. The foundation has taken the position that very low alcohol beverages are valuable alternatives to full-strength alcoholic beverages and should remain easily accessible for those adults who choose to use them.

Given the results of the survey, I believe that reducing the maximum allowable alcohol content is a prudent and reasonable response. The new level strikes an appropriate balance between the obvious benefits of keeping these products accessible for adults and the need to protect children from potential abuse. In addition, the Ministry of Education continues to work with agencies and groups in order to educate young people about the hazards of drug use, misuse and abuse.

THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS

Sessional paper 114, re the recommendations of the Powell report.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The government recently announced a number of initiatives aimed at improving the provision of health services to women. Among those initiatives was a commitment to address the problems of access to abortion.

It is the government's intention to ensure that services are accessible within the framework of existing Canadian legislation. While the government does not favour having abortion procedures performed in privately operated clinics, it be-

lieves that Ontario residents are entitled to reasonable access to abortion services in accredited hospitals as permitted under the existing federal law.

Dr. M. Powell, author of the Report on Therapeutic Abortion Services in Ontario, will be working with hospital trustees, administrators, physicians and nurses to develop proposals which will ensure better co-ordination of the referral process, so that when necessary, the procedure is provided in a sensitive, supportive and timely fashion.

The government also announced that a priority is to improve family planning and counselling services. To this end, the relevant ministries will expand and enhance their family planning programs, including education and counselling.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Sessional paper 121, re the removal of the ambulance from the village of Alvinston.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The amalgamation of the Glencoe and Alvinston ambulance stations was completed only after careful consideration of the impact on ambulance service for the whole area. The new operation based in Glencoe has allowed for increased onsite staffing to 12 hours per day from the previous eight hours and seven days per week onsite from the previous five days.

Increased staffing changes at the Strathroy service along with Glencoe-Alvinston amalgamation should result in the overall improvement in response times for all citizens in the area.

To further ensure that the citizens of the area are well served with ambulance coverage, the London central ambulance communications centre is monitoring area response times over the next few months. Staff from the London office of emergency health services will review these times to verify that the service remains at a high level.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Sessional paper 135, re Workers' Compensation Board claimant C15344808L/B15613465L.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The petition contains two recommendations: (1) establish strict time limitations upon all decisions and appeals of the board; and (2) accept the evidence of the claimant's physicians with the same weight as that of the board's physicians.

Response to recommendation 1: Strict time limitations imposed upon board decision-making and review processes would be potentially detrimental to claimants. (The Workers' Compensation Board maintains two levels of inde-

pendent claims review but final appeals are to the independent Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal which has statutory authority over its own administrative procedures.)

Background: Strict time limits are inappropriate to the WCB'S initial adjudication of claims since they restrict the board's ability to fully investigate a case before deciding whether an injured worker is entitled to benefits.

The report of the standing committee on resources development concerning the WCB annual report for 1984 recognized the importance of fully investigating claims and urged that the board "obtain all relevant information and evidence prior to the initial adjudication of a claim."

Time limits cannot readily be imposed upon claims review. A worker who is dissatisfied with the board's initial decision in his or her case is entitled to two levels of internal reconsideration of the decision. In a complex case, such as a claim for industrial disease, substantial amounts of time for investigation research and diagnostic testing may be required in any claim.

While the imposition of strict time limitations upon WCB decisions and appeals would be impractical in many cases, it should be noted that 93.4 per cent of lost-time claims are settled by the board within 30 working days after they are filed.

Response to recommendation 2: Where doubt exists about conflicting medical opinions but the facts in the case equally support allowing or denying WCB entitlement, the act requires the board to allow the claim.

Doubts about conflicting medical opinions can also be resolved by additional medical advice which the board may seek from independent consultants.

Medical opinions about the nature and extent of a worker's disability may be reviewed through the board's review services division. Ultimately they may be appealed to the independent Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal.

Background: Medical opinions are needed in claims for workers' compensation benefits to establish the nature, extent and work-relatedness of a disability. They are used by claims adjudicators to decide a worker's entitlement to compensation.

Before any decision is reached in a claim, additional medical opinions may be sought from specialists or from physical assessment/examination by board-employed physicians.

The purpose of seeking medical opinions from physicians other than the claimant's treating doctor is to clarify the existence and extent of the

injured worker's disablement where these are unclear from the information available to the board. Supplementary medical opinions provide information that allows the board to accept or reject entitlement to compensation benefits.

Medical decisions relating to a WCB claim can be disputed by the claimant and are reviewed by the same internal process as other board deci-

sions through the review services division.

A claimant who exhausts the board's internal review process and appeals to the external Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal may be medically assessed by an independent medical assessor chosen to advise the tribunal concerning any medical issues in an appeal case.

APPENDIX B

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(124 members)

Second Session, 33rd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. L. M. Alexander, PC, QC**Speaker: Hon. H. A. Edighoffer****Clerk of the House: C. L. DesRosiers**

-
- Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
 Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
 Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
 Baetz, R. C. (Ottawa West PC)
 Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
 Bennett, C. F. (Ottawa South PC)
 Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)
 Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)
 Caplan, Hon. E. (Oriole L)
 Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education and acting Minister of Government Services (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, J. (Downsview L)
 Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC)
 Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)
 Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)
 Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
 Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)
 Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
 Fontaine, R. (Cochrane North L)
 Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L)
 Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
 Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
 Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
 Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Grandmaitre, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)
 Gregory, M. E. C. (Mississauga East PC)
 Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)
 Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
 Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)
 Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
 Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, C. E. (York East L)
 Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
 Henderson, D. J. (Humber L)
 Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
 Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
 Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)
 Knight, D. S. (Halton-Burlington L)
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Wilson Heights L)
 Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)
 Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
 Leluk, N. G. (York West PC)
 Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt L)
 Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
 Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
 McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC)
 McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
 McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
 McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)
 McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
 McKessock, R. (Grey L)
 McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)
 Miller, F. S. (Muskoka PC)
 Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)
 Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)
 Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of Committee of the Whole House (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Hamilton Centre L)

Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)

O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)

Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)

Partington, P. (Brock PC)

Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines (London Centre L)

Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)

Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)

Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)

Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, C. (Yorkview L)

Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)

Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming L)

Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)

Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)

Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)

Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio (Parkdale L)

Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)

Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General and acting Solicitor General (St. David L)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)

Smith, D. W. (Lambton L)

Smith, E. J. (London South L)

Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development (York North L)

South, L. (Frontenac-Addington L)

Stephenson, B. M. (York Mills PC)

Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)

Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)

Timbrell, D. R. (Don Mills PC)

Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House (Oxford PC)

Turner, J. M. (Peterborough PC)

Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio (London North L)

Villeneuve, N. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)

Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)

Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)

Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines

Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet

Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education and acting Minister of Government Services

Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment

Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General and acting Solicitor General

Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food

Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation

Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy

O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology

Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services

Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health

Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour

Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs

Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing

Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communication

Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services

Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture

Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development

Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio

Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Bossy, M. L., assistant to the Minister of Housing (Chatham-Kent L)

Cordiano, J., assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Downsview L)

Epp, H. A., assistant to the Treasurer and the Minister of Revenue (Waterloo North L)

Ferraro, R. E., assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wellington South L)

Fontaine, R., assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Cochrane North L)

Haggerty, R., assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Erie L)

Hart, C. E., assistant to the Minister of Health (York East L)

Henderson, D. J., assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Humber L)

Knight, D. S., assistant to the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet (Halton-Burlington L)

McGuigan, J. F., assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources (Kent-Elgin L)

McKessock, R., assistant to the Solicitor General and the Minister of Correctional Services (Grey L)

Miller, G. I., assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Offer, S., assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mississauga North L)

Poirier, J., assistant to the Minister of Energy (Prescott-Russell L)

Polsinelli, C., assistant to the Minister of Labour (Yorkview L)

Ramsay, D., assistant to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Timiskaming L)

Reycraft, D. R., assistant to the Minister of Education (Middlesex L)

Sargent, E. C., assistant to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Grey-Bruce L)

South, L., assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Frontenac-Addington L)

Ward, C. C., assistant to the Attorney General (Wentworth North L)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration of justice: chairman, Mr. Brandt; vice-chairman, Ms. Fish; members, Messrs. Charlton, D. R. Cooke, Ms. Gigantes, Messrs.

O'Connor, Partington, Poirier, Polsinelli, Rowe and Ward; clerk, L. Mellor.

Finance and economic affairs: chairman, Mr. D. R. Cooke; vice-chairman, Mr. Ferraro; members, Messrs. Ashe, Cordiano, Haggerty, Mackenzie, McFadden, Morin-Strom, Ramsay, Miss Stephenson and Mr. Taylor; clerk, F. Carrozza.

General government: chairman, Mr. McCague; vice-chairman, Mr. Guindon; members, Mrs. Grier, Messrs. Lane, Lupusella, McKessock, G. I. Miller, Offer, Pollock, Sheppard and Swart; clerk, D. Deller; clerk pro tem, T. Manikel.

Government agencies: chairman, Mr. Gregory; vice-chairman, Mr. Mitchell; members, Messrs. Fontaine, Foulds, Hayes, J. M. Johnson, Leluk, Mrs. Marland, Messrs. Polsinelli, Sargent and D. W. Smith; clerk, D. Arnott.

Legislative Assembly: chairman, Mr. Breough; members, Messrs. Bossy, Mancini, Martel, Morin, Newman, Sterling, Treleaven, Turner, Villeneuve and Warner; clerk, S. Forsyth.

Ombudsman: chairman, Mr. McNeil; vice-chairman, Mr. Sheppard; members, Messrs. Bossy, Hayes, Henderson, Hennessy, McLean, Morin, Newman, Philip and Shymko; clerk, T. Decker.

Public accounts: chairman, Mr. Runciman; vice-chairman, Mr. Gillies; members, Messrs. Barlow, Callahan, Cousens, Epp, Gillies, Mancini, Philip, Pope, Runciman, D. W. Smith and Wildman; clerk, D. Arnott.

Regulations and private bills: chairman, Mr. Callahan; vice-chairman, Mr. Haggerty; members, Ms. Bryden, Messrs. Dean, Hennessy, Lupusella, McKessock, G. I. Miller, Pouliot, Shymko and Wiseman; clerk, T. Manikel.

Resources development: chairman, Mr. Laughren; vice-chairman, Mr. Reville; members, Mr. Bernier, Ms. Caplan, Messrs. Gordon, McGuigan, Offer, Pierce, South, Stevenson and Wildman; clerk, T. Decker.

Social development: chairman, Mr. R. F. Johnston; vice-chairman, Mr. Allen; members, Messrs. Andrewes, Baetz, Callahan, Cordiano, Davis, Grande, Ms. Hart, Messrs. Jackson and Reycraft; clerk, F. Carrozza.

SELECT COMMITTEES

Environment: chairman, Mr. Knight; vice-chairman, Mr. G. I. Miller; members, Messrs. Charlton, Eves, Gillies, Mrs. Grier, Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Marland, Messrs. Partington, D. W. Smith and South; clerk, T. Manikel.

Health: chairman, Mr. Callahan; members, Messrs. Andrewes, Baetz, D. S. Cooke, Cordiano, Ms. Hart, Messrs. Henderson, R. F. Johnston, Reycraft, Miss Stephenson and Mr. Turner; clerk, D. Deller; clerk pro tem, T. Manikel.

Retail store hours: chairman, Mr. O'Connor; vice-chairman, Mr. Guindon; members, Messrs.

Barlow, Bernier, Philip, Polsinelli, Reville, Sargent, Shymko, D. W. Smith and Ms. E. J. Smith; clerk, L. Mellor.

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

CONTENTS

Monday, June 29, 1987

Members' statements

Trade with United States, Mr. McFadden	1765
Ontario Municipal Board decision, Ms. Bryden	1765
Pit bull terriers, Mr. McGuigan, Mr. Brandt	1765
Assistance for the disabled, Mr. R. F. Johnston	1766
D and E Wood Industries Ltd., Mr. Pollock	1766
Marketing boards, Mr. Stevenson	1767

Statements by the ministry

Employment equity, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1767
Race relations, Hon. Mr. Scott	1767
Occupational health and safety, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1768
Stabilization payments, Hon. Mr. Riddell	1769

Responses

Occupational health and safety, Mr. Gillies	1769
Race relations, Mr. Gillies	1769
Stabilization payments, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Hayes	1770
Occupational health and safety, Mr. Martel	1770
Employment equity, Mr. Rae	1771

Oral questions

Conflict-of-interest guidelines, Mr. Grossman, Hon. Mr. Peterson, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Scott .	1771
Employment equity, Mr. Rae, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1776
Immunization, Mr. Reycraft, Hon. Mr. Elston	1777
IDEA Corp., Mr. Gillies, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1777
Doctors' fees, Mr. D. S. Cooke, Hon. Mr. Elston	1778
IDEA Corp., Mr. Gillies, Hon. Mr. Peterson	1779
Social assistance, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1779
Lease of government land, Hon. Mr. Conway, Mr. Callahan	1779
Ontario Human Rights Commission, Mr. Gregory, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1780
Hospital funding, Mr. Hayes, Hon. Mr. Elston, Mr. D. S. Cooke	1780
Acid rain, Mr. D. R. Cooke, Hon. Mr. Bradley	1782
Alcohol and drug addiction, Mr. Andrewes, Hon. Mr. Elston	1782
Automobile insurance, Mr. Swart, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1782

Petitions

Human rights, Mr. Gordon, tabled	1783
Transit services, Ms. Caplan, tabled	1783
Automobile insurance, Mr. Hayes, tabled	1783
Ministry employee, Mr. Morin-Strom, tabled	1783
Hospital funding, Mr. Rowe, tabled	1783
Highway exit, Mr. Sterling, tabled	1783
Automobile insurance, Mr. Harris, tabled	1784

First readings

Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act , Bill 106, Hon. Mr. Wrye, agreed to .	1784
Beds of Navigable Waters Amendment Act , Bill 107, Mr. Haggerty, agreed to	1784
Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act , Bill 108, Hon. Mr. Riddell, agreed to	1784
Motor Vehicle Repair Act , Bill 109, Hon. Mr. Kwinter, agreed to	1784
Ontario Automobile Insurance Board Act , Bill 110, Hon. Mr. Kwinter, agreed to	1784
Hamilton Civic Hospitals Act , Bill Pr24, Mr. Ward, agreed to	1784
Education Amendment Act , Bill 111, Mr. Mackenzie, agreed to	1784

Government motion

Summer sittings , resolution 11, Hon. Mr. Nixon, Mr. Ashe, Mr. McFadden, agreed to . .	1785
---	------

Second reading

Great Lakes Bible College Act , Bill Pr5, Mr. Andrewes, agreed to	1787
--	------

Third reading

Great Lakes Bible College Act , Bill Pr5, Mr. Andrewes, agreed to	1787
--	------

Committee of the whole House/Comité plénier

Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act , Bill 10, Mr. Reville, reported	1787
Retail Business Holidays Amendment Act , Bill 188, Mr. Ashe, Hon. Mr. Keyes, Ms. Bryden, reported	1787
Members' Conflict of Interest Act , Bill 23, Hon. Mr. Scott, reported	1790
Loi de 1987 sur les conflits d'intérêts des membres de l'Assemblée , loi 23, l'hon. M. Scott, rapportée	1790

Third readings

Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act , Bill 10, Mr. Reville, agreed to	1790
Retail Business Holidays Amendment Act , Bill 188, Mr. Ashe, agreed to	1791
Members' Conflict of Interest Act , Bill 23, Hon. Mr. Scott, Mr. Harris, Mr. Rae, recommitted to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly	1791
Loi de 1987 sur les conflits d'intérêts des membres de l'Assemblée , loi 23, l'hon. M. Scott, M. Harris, M. Rae, renvoyé au Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative	1791

Report by committee

Standing committee on resources development , Mr. Laughren, agreed to	1799
--	------

Committee of the whole House

Employment Standards Amendment Act , Bill 85, Hon. Mr. Wrye, Mr. Mackenzie, reported	1799
---	------

Third reading

Employment Standards Amendment Act , Bill 85, Hon. Mr. Wrye, agreed to	1804
---	------

Royal assent

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor	1804
---	------

Motions

Summer sittings , Hon. Mr. Nixon, agreed to	1805
Adjournment , Hon. Mr. Nixon, agreed to	1805

Other business

Visitor , Hon. Mr. Curling, Mr. Rae, Mr. Grossman	1771
Adjournment	1805

Appendix A

Answers to questions in Orders and Notices

Coal contracts , questions 6, 12 and 13, Mr. Mitchell, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1806
Trade with United States , questions 14 and 15, Mr. McFadden, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1808
Travel expenses , questions 121 and 181, Mr. Rowe, Hon. Mr. Eakins, Mr. Cousens, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1809
Allegations by Graham McCready , question 127, Mr. Bennett, Hon. Mr. Scott	1809
Colleges of applied arts and technology , question 140, Mr. Warner, Hon. Mr. Sorbara ..	1809
Rape crisis centres , question 141, Ms. Gigantes, Hon. Mr. Keyes	1810
Funeral services , questions 142, 143, 144, 146 and 147, Mr. Runciman, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1810
Ontario graduate scholarship program , question 152, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Sorbara ..	1811
Development corporations , question 156, Mr. Mackenzie, Hon. Mr. O'Neil	1811
Ontario health insurance plan , question 159, Mr. Andrewes, Hon. Mr. Elston	1811
Government advertising , questions 163 and 168, Mr. McCague, Hon. Mr. Nixon, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1812
Ontario basic skills program , question 170, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1812
Help centres , question 173, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1813
Ambulance services , questions 175 and 176, Mr. Jackson, Hon. Mr. Elston	1813
Land transfer tax , question 178, Mr. Cousens, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1814
Legal fees , question 183, Mr. Warner, Hon. Mr. Sorbara	1814
Landfill site , question 184, Mr. Treleaven, Hon. Mr. Bradley	1814
Computerized axial tomography , questions 185, 186, 187, 188 196, 197, 198 and 206, Mr. Pierce, Hon. Mr. Elston	1814
Conservation officers , question 189, Mr. Pierce, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1815
Tree-planting , questions 190 and 191, Mr. Pierce, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1817
Forest spraying program , question 192, Mr. Pierce, Hon. Mr. Kerrio	1817
Ontario Housing Corp. , question 207, Mr. Treleaven, Hon. Mr. Curling	1817
Severance pay , question 208, Mr. Bernier, Hon. Mr. Nixon	1818
Child care , question 209, Mr. Treleaven, Hon. Mr. Sweeney	1818
Interim answers , question 139, 163, 171, 203, 204 and 211	1818

Responses to petitions

Education Amendment Act , sessional paper 20, Hon. Mr. Conway	1819
Low-alcohol products , sessional paper 36, Hon. Mr. Kwinter	1819
Therapeutic abortions , sessional paper 114, Hon. Mr. Elston	1819
Ambulance services , sessional paper 121, Hon. Mr. Elston	1820
Workers' compensation , sessional paper 135, Hon. Mr. Wrye	1820

Appendix B

Alphabetical list of members of the Legislature of Ontario, members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees	1822
---	------

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
Breagh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Caplan, E. (Oriole L)
Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education and acting Minister of Government Services (Renfrew North L)
Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)
Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
Gregory, M. E. C. (Mississauga East PC)
Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Minister of Financial Institutions (Wilson Heights L)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics, Minister of Revenue and acting Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)
Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Northern Development and Mines (London Centre L)
Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)
Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)
Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)
Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)
Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)
Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)
Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)

NOV 0 8 1989

